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Islamic Affairs

ICO Ministers' Emergency Meeting Continues

PLO's Al-Surani Arrives

NC2002155691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who arrived in Cairo earlier in the day.

At the conclusion of the meeting, which was attended by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, al-Surani said that the meeting falls within the framework of consultations between Egypt and the PLO.

Al-Surani expressed the hope that the Soviet initiative proposed for resolving the Gulf crisis will mark the return of tranquillity to the Arab homeland and produce a solution to all regional problems, foremost among which is the Palestine question.

Pakistani Minister Arrives

NC2102043391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Cairo from Iran this evening to head his country's delegation to the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] ministerial committee which will begin tomorrow.

The Pakistani minister was received at Cairo airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abd-al-Majid To Open Meeting

NC2002090291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—The extraordinary meeting of the ministerial and summit councils of the Islamic Conference Organization, which comprise 10 [number as received] Islamic states, will open in Cairo tomorrow. The ministerial council is made up of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Morocco, Kuwait, Maldives, Senegal, Gabon, the PLO, and Egypt. [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0500 GMT on 20 February in a similar report adds "the countries represented in the meeting are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkey, Morocco, Kuwait, Maldives, Senegal, Gabon and the PLO"]

Egyptian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sayyid Qasim al-Masri has stated that ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid will present a working paper to the meeting on the ICO's attempts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He added that the idea of holding this meeting came up during al-Ghabid's meeting with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Cairo last week.

Ambassador al-Masri added that eight of the 10 council members have already notified the ICO general secretariat of their acceptance to attend the meeting.

It is worth noting that Kuwait, represented by its Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad, will chair the meetings of the ICO summit council, while Egypt will chair the ministerial council.

The one-day meeting will discuss the Gulf crisis and efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will deliver the opening speech, in which he will emphasize Egypt's eagerness to find a peaceful settlement for the issue.

Meeting Opens 21 Feb

NC2102132091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and current chairman of the Islamic states foreign ministers conference, today opened the emergency meeting of the Islamic states foreign ministers, who are members of the Islamic Conference Organization bureau's committee.

The meeting was attended by ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabin, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Saudi Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel, Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Omar Sy, and Gabonese Foreign Minister Ali Bongo. The meeting was also attended by PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani and the Turkish ambassador to Egypt.

The conferees will discuss developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts which the ICO may undertake to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

'Abd-al-Majid Urges Iraqi Withdrawal

NC2102152191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, gave a speech at the opening session of the ICO foreign ministers conference in Cairo today. He stated that Egypt is following with deep sadness the developments in the Gulf crisis provoked by Iraq's occupation of the fraternal State of Kuwait. He said that Egypt had made sincere efforts before and after the invasion to avert the catastrophe and to heal the rift out of its responsibility and concern to restore the free state of Kuwait under the leadership of its legitimate government, and to spare Iraq the perils of war and devastation.

He said that the ICO stood with utmost firmness against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait from the first moment, issued statements condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and asserted the need for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of the legitimate government. He said that the Islamic world feels great pain at the continued deterioration of the situation in the Gulf and the suffering of the Muslim people in Kuwait and Iraq. He said: We must not forget that the cause of the problem is Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He added: We reaffirm to the Palestinian people that their legitimate cause has been our historic issue from the beginning—and still is. We are determined, he said, to consecrate all efforts to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive solution, once the Gulf crisis is settled, in a way that will achieve for the Palestinian people their inalienable national rights, including their right to determine their own future.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that Egypt believes that the solution is in the hands of the Iraqi leadership, which has the power to make a decision on withdrawal from Kuwait and to give up threats to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. In this way, the war will end, the Iraqi people will be saved, and its Army will be preserved as a force for the Arabs and a source of support for Islam. He said that Egypt believes that this profound position is not only its position, but that of all countries that comply with the principle of international legitimacy. Concluding his statement, he said that Egypt is still waiting to hear from Iraq a word of truth declaring its readiness for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait in implementation of the Security Council resolutions and in compliance with international legitimacy and the will of the international community. He stressed that Egypt stands by Iraq and its people who comply with the principles of international legitimacy.

Foreign Ministers Issue Statement

NC2102214691 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Feb 91

["Final statement issued by the joint meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states of the bureaus of the fifth Islamic summit conference and the 19th Islamic conference of the foreign ministers and states chairing the standing committees of the Islamic Conference Organization, held in Cairo on 21 February 1991" read by "Dr. Munir Zahran"—live or recorded]

[Text] The joint meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states of the bureaus of the fifth Islamic summit conference and the 19th Islamic conference of the foreign ministers and states chairing the standing committees of the Islamic Conference Organization was held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6 Sha'ban, corresponding to 21 February 1991, to discuss the situation in the Gulf region and the ICO's role in settling the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict that resulted from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

2. [number as heard] The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers and the heads of the delegations of the following member states: Egypt, Gabon, Kuwait, the Maldives, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Turkey. The Kingdom of Morocco was absent from this meeting.

3. The meeting took note of the report—Document No. JMBMINSG-REP1—submitted by His Excellency ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid, regarding the follow-up and implementation of the resolutions contained in the declaration regarding the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, issued by the 19th conference of the Islamic foreign ministers held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 9 to 14 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 31 July to 5 August 1991.

4. Following a detailed study of the current conditions in the Gulf, especially in light of the current events, the meeting agreed that the Republic of Iraq's invasion, occupation, and annexation of Kuwait has dragged the region and the Muslim nation, and the world in general, into a serious crisis, the repercussions of which are countless.

5. The meeting noted in bitterness that the crisis resulting from the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi troops has led to a large-scale armed conflict, which has had devastating and major repercussions against mankind and his environment.

The exile and harsh sufferings imposed on the Kuwaiti people, the massive departure of hundreds of thousands of workers from Iraq and Kuwait, the losses in human life, and the destruction of socioeconomic facilities in Iraq and Kuwait constitute the great magnitude of the catastrophe resulting from the presence of the Iraqi Armed Forces in Kuwait.

6. The meeting strongly condemned the invasion of the State of Kuwait and its continued occupation by the Armed Forces of the Iraqi Republic as an action incompatible with ICO principles, human values, and rules of international law. It underlined the contents of the special statement on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait that was approved by the 19th Islamic conference of foreign ministers, the final statement issued by the annual coordination meeting of the ICO member states held at the United Nations in New York on 1 October 1990, and the statement issued by the joint meeting of the high commissioners of the member states in the fifth Islamic summit bureau and the 19th Islamic conference of the foreign ministers held in Jeddah on 8 January 1991.

7. The meeting praised the numerous efforts of the international community on the individual and collective levels to contain the crisis—from the time it appeared—and to help find a peaceful solution to it. It expressed its profound regret at Iraq's lack of response to the appeals made to it by the Islamic nation and the world in general, and for its choosing to challenge them through its intransigent refusal to comply with Islamic

and international legitimacy and to withdraw its forces from the State of Kuwait so as to restore this country's legitimate government.

8. Regarding the statement issued by the Iraqi Government on 15 February 1991, the meeting repeated that, with the principle of good-neighborliness, the basic and necessary condition for a political solution to the crisis consists of the following: the Iraqi forces' immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the Kuwaiti territories, restoration of the legitimate government under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait and the chairman of the current fifth ICO summit, and Iraq's full commitment to comply with the relevant Security Council and ICO resolutions.

9. The meeting reaffirms the resolutions issued by all Islamic summit conferences and Islamic foreign ministers conferences relating to Palestine. It also reaffirms the following facts:

Their countries have made great sacrifices and provided constant moral, political, and diplomatic support—despite all challenges and obstacles. They reaffirm their continued support for the valiant intifadah of the Palestinian people under occupation. The member states adhere to their Islamic and historical commitment to the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, including their genuine right to self-determination and the establishment of their state on their national soil.

Their commitment to the effort to find a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine question comes before any other consideration, within the framework of an international peace conference.

10. The meeting denounced Iraq's intransigent refusal to submit to Islamic and international legitimacy. The meeting also denounced Iraqi attempts to link the resolution of the crisis resulting from the occupation of Kuwait with other issues. The meeting emphasized that the Palestine question is a pan-Arab responsibility that concerns all Arabs and Muslims. Consequently, the meeting condemned the Iraqi regime's attempts to take advantage of the Palestine question to justify its invasion of Kuwait and the expulsion of its people and hundreds of thousands of people working there, including Palestinians themselves. In view of the Iraqi practices, the meeting stressed that this regime is incapable of carrying out any act that would resolve the regional crises. The meeting went on to emphasize the falsity of the Iraqi regime's allegations about playing the role of the defender of Arab and Islamic causes.

11. The meeting voiced appreciation for the sacrifices made by the states and peoples of the region to face the aggression and resist its effects. In this regard, the meeting underlined the ICO member states' solidarity with the governments and peoples of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as with other states and peoples of the region, in this hard and unfair ordeal that has befallen them. The meeting stressed the member states' commitment to the liberation of Kuwait, to the return of its legitimate government, and to supporting the Gulf states' efforts to preserve and defend the region's security and stability.

The meeting says that stability in the Gulf region requires respect for and nonviolation of all regional states' internationally recognized borders as they were before the start of the crisis.

13. [no number 12 as heard] The meeting noted the fears expressed by the international community. It urged the prohibition of the use of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. The meeting also stressed the need to respect absolutely the rules of Islamic shariah [law] and/or the rules of the Geneva conventions and other rules of international humanitarian laws. It called on the entire international community to continue its contribution to achieve these objectives in line with the requirements of Islamic and international shariah.

15. [no number 14 as heard] In addition to resolving the current crisis in the Gulf, the meeting called on the member states to start to think deeply about ways and means to back security and cooperation in the Islamic world, within the framework of joint Islamic action. This process should include political, economic, social, cultural, and other aspects; the establishment of peace and security in the Islamic world on firm bases and making a tangible reality of the objectives of this cooperation and solidarity—which have been clearly set out in the historic communique of holy Mecca. In this respect, the meeting welcomed the efforts already under way by the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other Islamic countries.

16. The meeting shared with millions of Muslims in the world the real pain they are feeling over the severe tribulation imposed on the peoples of the Gulf region, including their most holy places, because of Iraq's unjustifiable refusal to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory and to respect the independence, sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of the other countries in the region. The meeting expressed hope that the day will come when Iraq returns to the ranks of the Islamic nation to work in harmony with the peoples of the Gulf region and all Islamic peoples so as to achieve the Muslims' legitimate aspirations of justice, freedom, peace, and progress.

Final paragraph: The meeting expressed its profound thanks to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this meeting and for the meeting President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, had with the ministers and heads of delegation and for his strengthening of the spirit of Islamic solidarity at this fateful point in the Islamic world's history.

Jihad Convention Continues at Riyadh University

Saudi Minister Addresses Meeting

LD2002235591 Riyadh SPA in English 1957 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 20, SPA—Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, today said the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not fear fighting when it becomes essential. Jihad (just war) was the primary element of the foundation of the first Saudi state 250 years ago, which continued to remain so until the formation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, he said.

Addressing participants of a convention on jihad now in progress in Riyadh at Immam Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University during a luncheon hosted by him in their honour this afternoon, Prince Nayif said the Saudi leadership has decided to confront the aggressive plots of the corrupt Iraqi regime under the banner of Jihad.

Prince Nayif said the Saudi policy is based on four main pillars:

—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a peace-loving country and drafts its foreign relations on the basis of peace.

—The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to build-up its development and devote its potentials for this purpose.

—It has been learned from modern history that a number of states and communities had been exhausted by conflicts and provocations, and the Kingdom is trying to avoid such a fate that would lead to destruction.

—The world has entered phases of detente and peace despite differences of ideologies, interests and strategies. And like other wise leaders, the leaders of the kingdom understand the importance of peace and the necessity of detente.

Prince Nayif told the audience that the Iraqi leadership had been fed up with the kingdom's determination and plans of construction, progress and development and had made a comparison with the development achieved by the kingdom and destruction and miserable fate to which the Iraqi leadership has now dragged its people. He asked why the Iraqi leadership was adopted a spiteful position against the kingdom and designed intrigues to bite the hand that had once supported Iraq. In order to carry out its suspicious and spiteful plots, Prince Nayif said the Iraqi rulers had invaded Kuwait, displaces its people, plundered their belongings and violated their honour and then mobilized huge number of forces along the Saudi borders. Referring to the convention of jihad, organized by the Immam Mohammed Ibn Saudi Islamic University, Prince Nayif said the convention came at an opportune time amid such uneasy circumstances being witnessed by the entire region that stipulate jihad. He thanked the university for hosting the important Islamic gathering to shed light on the true and correct means, objectives and understanding of jihad as explained by the Islamic teachings. "It is the duty of scientific and ideological establishments and other concerned organizations to react with the crucial events and to offer required support at the proper time," Prince Nayif added.

Prince Nayif also expressed thanks and appreciation to the participants of the convention who came from inside and outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to embody the genuine Islamic solidarity with the leadershp and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On the behalf of the 'ulema, sheikhs, thinkers and intellectuals who are attending the convention of jihad, Dr Ahmad Omar Hashim, member of the Egyptian Peoples Assembly and vice chairman of al-Azhar University, expressed absolute support to the wise measures and steps undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the vicious Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and the evil plots of the Iraqi regime to disturb and jeopardize the kingdom's security and stability. He termed the convention as an important Islamic gathering to explain and clear facts in the face of the false and suspicious allegations being spread by the Iraqi regime. He called on Muslims throughout the world to unify ranks and support mujahideen.

Communique Condemns Iraqi 'Aggression'

LD2102180691 Riyadh SPA in English 1206 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 21, SPA—The three-day Jihad Convention, organised by Imam Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud Islamic University, held its concluding session here last night under the chairmanship of his eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, the general president of scientific research, ifta [Mufti's office], daw'ah [call] and guidance departments.

The convention's final communique was read by Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, vice-president of [Egypt's] al-Azhar university.

In view of [the] unjustified Iraqi vicious aggression on Kuwait, the arrogance and intransigence of the Iraqi leadership in rejecting all peace and sincere efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to avert a destructive war in the region and the Iraqi leadership's insistince on the use of force, the Kingdom took up its duty of protecting the region and reversing aggression, the communique said.

Muslim scholars, collectively and individually and Islamic, Arab and international organisations had made fervent appeals to the Iraqi regime to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and the Kingdom's border, but these appeals had not produced any results, it added.

'This has clearly exposed the Iraqi regime's aggressive nature and insistence on war. Islam has made Muslims duty-bound to wage war against aggression and injustice,' the communique said.

The communique said the Iraqi regime, because of its aggressive attitude, should be fought in order to curb its mischief on earth and to uproot dissension. It held the Iraqi regime accountable for provoking aggression as the regime has threatened the security of the land of the two holy mosques.

The communique attributed the aggression and mischief of the Iraqi regime to its deviation from the path of Islam and its adoption of irrational principles and corrupt intentions. It urged all Muslim governments and peoples to support the Kingdom in its efforts to deter the Iraqi aggression on the Islamic sanctuaries and hold high the banner of justice. It regretted also the stand of some governments and Islamic groups which supported the tyrant of Iraq.

'Your support to the Iraqi regime has been a direct cause and a basic incentive for encouraging the tyrant to pursue his injustice. Moreover, the principles of Islam and rights of brotherhood should prohibit you to take such [an] unwise stand,' the communique said.

The convention's participants expressed deep sympathy with the Kuwaiti brethren who have faced a bitter ordeal and sad tragedy. 'This trail should not weaken your will to fight injustice and tyranny,' the communique said. The Kuwaiti resistance is a symbol of firm resolve to bring about the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi aggressor, it added.

The participants also sent a fraternal message to the brotherly people of Iraq in which they said the Islamic and Arab nation does not have enemity against them, but that it is only with the Iraqi regime and its leadership which insisted on making the Iraqi people and army a fuel for this foolish war. 'We also feel the ordeal of the Iraqi people,' it said.

The communique said the world is awaiting a courageous stand to be made by the Iraqi people and army for rescuing the Iraqi people, lands, its civilization and potentials from a dark fate imposed on them by the Iraqi tyrant. The statement noted the religious and historic stand of the Iraqi ulema in facing the injustice and underlined their honorable jihad in resisting tyranny.

The participants expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Saudi leadership, government and people for hosting the convention and their total support to the Kingdom which is fighting this blind and bloody dissension triggered by the Iraqi tyrant and praised the firm and decisive stand of King Fahd against aggression and aggressors and thanked the friendly nations which cooperated with him.

The participants also paid tributes to personnel of the Saudi Armed Forces, who have been loyal to their religion, sanctuaries and homeland by taking up arms to fight the aggressors and participate in the liberation of Kuwait. They said the fight of the Saudi armed forces and other Islamic forces is a jihad for the cause of God.

The convention noted with great pleasure the spirit of sacrifice which has been shown by the Saudi youth who have responded positively to the call of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and joined the Armed Forces for defending the creed, sanctuaries and homeland. The participants said the convention has reflected the closely-knit relations and cohesion between the Saudi people and their leadership. This close and strong cohesion forms a firm ground for the united internal front to confront aggression.

The participants urged ulema, propagators, intellectuals, thinkers, men of letter, poets and pressmen to contribute fully their potentials in fighting the aggressor through firm literary stand, free word, clear opinion, logic, argument and morale mobilization. They said the Iraqi regime should not speak about the Palestinian issue because by invading Kuwait it has inflicted a heavy damage on the cause of Palestinians.

It also should not speak about the liberation of al-Quds because it will be liberated by the true believers and pious leaders who implement the rules of god in every affair of their life.

The participants recommended drafting of the deliberations of the convention into intellectual and scientific documents, formation of a delegation, comprising participants to visit some brotherly and friendly countries which stood beside the Kingdom and other Arab gulf states for thanking their leaders on their decisive stand, holding this convention annually in the Kingdom for reviving the spirit of jihad and holding similar conventions in the Islamic world in association with the Imam Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud Islamic University, and empowering the rector of the university to supervise the implementation of the convention's recommendations.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaykh Bin-Baz urged Muslims worldwide to support the Kingdom in its jihad against the aggressors as God in the glorious koran orders Muslims to fight the astray-group until it returns to the path of righteousness. He said Muslims shoud assist the Kingdom and the people of Kuwait in their great jihad for rescuing the state from the aggression which has befallen it.

Shaykh Bin-Baz said those who are killed in defence of their wealth, honor and religion are martyrs. He thanked the convention for clearing matters before all Muslims.

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Threatens U.S. Airport in Frankfurt

AU2202112391 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 22 Feb 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Military Airports Are Targets for Attacks"]

[Excerpt] Amman, 21 February—The Arab terrorist organization "Islamic Jihad" has announced an attack on the U.S. airport in Frankfurt. The head of the organzation, Shaykh Asad al-Tamimi, told a FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE correspondent in Amman on Thursday [21 February]. "The U.S. airport in Frankfurt is one of our targets." One week ago, al-Tamimi stated that his organization is aiming at an "object in Frankfurt," but declined to elaborate. This led to the impression that civilian facilities may also be targets of terrorist attacks in Germany. Asked whether German financial aid for Israel and the financing of Patriot antimissile missiles have created a new situation, al-Tamimi pointed out: "Everybody who provides money, weapons, or soldiers for the war will be a target of jihad. The current situation will lead to hell in the whole of Europe." He explicitly stated that this is also a warning to the FRG Govnerment that it should give up its support for the allies. He has not yet ordered his fighters to attack German targets as well, he pointed out. "First we will attack Americans, French, and Britons," stated the Islamic official, who is always surrounded by guards carrying machine guns at his residence in Amman. Al-Tamini stated that the "Jihad for the liberation of Israel" wil be continued irrespective of the outcome of the Gulf war and the Iraqi reply to the Soviet peace plan. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Welcomes Iraqi Acceptance of Soviet Plan

NC2202012791 Paris AFP in English 0120 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Tunis, Feb 22 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir 'Arafat on Friday welcomed Iraq's acceptance of a Soviet peace plan, saying Baghdad had shown proof of a "positive attitude."

Mr. 'Arafat told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Iraqi agreement was "what we were hoping for, namely an end to the war."

He added that the Soviet peace plan should be examined by the United Nations Security Council and not the United States.

The Soviet presidential spokesman in Moscow said Iraq had agreed to a total and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. The announcement came after talks between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Interviewed on Gulf War

PY2002113091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 91 pp 2-4, 2-5

["Exclusive interview" with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO special correspondent to Jordan Jose Arbex, on 17 February at 0300 local time at a house belonging to the "local government" in Amman, Jordan]

[Text] [Arbex] What are the consequences of this war for the Palestinians in overall strategic terms? After this war, will the Palestinians be nearer to or farther away from their state?

['Arafat] It will depend on the results of the war. The United States is trying to impose its new order in the region, another Sykes-Picot agreement, another agreement like that of Yalta and Potsdam. The United States is trying to prepare the conditions for a new subordination of the Arab nation. It wants control of the oil and thus to control the means to confront the challenge of a United Europe, or the power of the Japanese or the Germans. Do not forget that the Arab conference in Baghdad in May discussed two items: the U.S. and Israeli threats to Iraq, and the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, a country which plans to install these immigrants in the occupied territories. The objective is to build Greater Israel, based on territorial annexations as a premise of the "New Order". This expansionist project is no secret. On the contrary, it is broadly discussed by the press. On 15 February 1989 an Israeli newspaper published a map of Greater Israel, and that map is stamped on one side of a coin that is circulating in Israel. The coin is equivalent to 10 new agoras (cents). But whatever the result of the war, there will be no peace, stability, or security as long as Palestinian rights are ignored, rights that have been guaranteed by international law and by the UN resolutions, including the rights to our own state, our sovereignty, our independence, and our self-determination: The Palestine state, whose capital will be Jerusalem.

[Arbex] How did you receive President George Bush's answer to Saddam Husayn's peace proposal?

['Arafat] With complete surprise, considering Bush's immediate rejection of it. Bush has no right to give immediate responses without first carefully studying them with his advisers. From the very beginning, Bush was stressing that Husayn must withdraw his troops from Kuwait. On several occasions, experts from throughout the world, including Washington, told me that the magic word that Saddam must use was "withdrawal." Husayn is willing to do that now, and I hope Bush will think on the matter again. I have the right to ask the international public opinion: Why did Bush begin this insane war? Bush rejects the international legal system. What international force was mobilized to defend the Palestinians against oppression, against the daily mass assassinations organized by Israel? If Bush refuses to establish the political relationship between the Gulf problems and the Palestine problem he will have to now face the military relationship between these problems.

[Arbex] Who are these specialists? What type of relations do you have with them?

['Arafat] When the time comes, I will reveal the names. Some contacts are direct, others indirect.

[Arbex] Is there a contradiction in the terms of Saddam's proposal, when he claims to accept Resolution 660 (establishing the unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait), and yet he imposes at the same time a number of conditions?

['Arafat] You must view the problem from position of the international legal system. This is the only way.

When discussing the Gulf problem, we must also recall UN Resolution 242 that provides for the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories of West Bank and Gaza. That resolution was ratified by Resolution 605—total withdrawal from Palestine and from all Arab territories. No one sent armed forces to impose these resolutions on Israel. What does it mean? Double standards? When we talk about the international legal system, we must demand equal rights for nations before the law, whether in the Middle East, in South Africa, or in Latin America, anywhere. All that is obvious and clear. Bush is not the sheriff of the world. He is a member of the United Nations and does not have the right to implement resolutions on behalf of the United Nations.

[Arbex] How is Saddam Husayn personally? How is he feeling?

['Arafat] Before meeting with him I was a bit concerned about his military position judging from what I had heard and read from various sources about his losses. Yet, he revived my optimism and gave me great encouragement. He is fully confident.

[Arbex] Yet there are reports that the people are beginning to become demoralized because of the bombing of Baghdad.

['Arafat] The same was said during the siege I suffered in Beirut. Do you remember? I was at the Commodore Hotel. On that occasion, we did not even have water and we even had to dig a bit to get water. Mesopotamia is not like Beirut's 9 square km. They have more than 400,000 square km.

[Arbex] What is your participation, if any, in Saddam's initiative?

['Arafat] Saddam informed me before disclosing his initiative, and he also informed King Husayn and other Arab leaders. We discussed in detail the initiative as I expected from the Iraqi leaders.

[Arbex] Bush has suggested that there is discontent in Iraq and that there could be a coup against Saddam. Did you perceive this atmosphere in Baghdad?

['Arafat] Bush is instigating the Iraqi people against their government. Is this the "new international order?" Is this Bush's democracy? It seems that this is the order that Bush wants to impose on the region.

[Arbex] Do you believe that Bush could be signaling that Saddam's assassination is being prepared?

['Arafat] I feel that Bush is making a mistake.

[Arbex] Could you elaborate a little more on Saddam's current military situation?

['Arafat] Saddam told me that he is in a position of power and that everything that has been said to the contrary simply is not true.

[Arbex] Yet what did he specifically say? What details can you give us?

['Arafat] Well, there were secret talks, but you can be sure about one thing: in Beirut in 1982 I had nothing: I did not have any tanks, I did not have any nonconventional weapons, I did not have any sophisticated weapons, and I resisted the siege for three months. You must remember that an agreement between Alexander Haig and Ariel Sharon established a 48-hour period to do the dirty work in Beirut. In just one day, on 4 August, they bombed me with 256,000 bombs, according to the Israeli military services. What happened in that small 9-sq-km area? They managed to advance 10 meters, which is less than the width of a tank [as published]. Therefore, I ask: How long will this war last? Many experts from the United States and from Europe have told me personally that the Gulf War would not last more than six or seven hours. Some talked about three or four days. We have just entered the second month. Some say that the land battle will not last more than six days. Remember this: The battle will be very long and the number of casualties will be very high. I repeat my appeal to the European leaders and especially to President Bush. Enough. We must put an end to this insane war, stop the massacre and the bloodbath.

[Arbex] Do you believe that nonconventional weapons will be used?

['Arafat] So far, nonconventional weapons have not been used. In spite of this, I have reliable information that the United States and the United Kingdom are preparing to use nonconventional weapons. For this reason, a few days ago President Mitterrand released a declaration, stating: "We, Frenchmen, will not use nonconventional weapons, and we urge our allies not to use them."

Mitterrand wanted to distance himself from that insane act. Do not harbor any doubts: If nonconventional weapons are used, there will be retaliations. What does this mean? Catastrophe. If Washington considres itself a new Rome, we do not need a new Nero.

[Arbex] Will there be a ground war?

['Arafat] Unfortunately, everything indicates that the answer is yes. All of Bush's remarks lead in that direction. This also unveils the true goal of the war, of that dirty aggression against Iraq. It is not a war to benefit Kuwait; it seeks to destroy Iraq's infrastructural facilities, its power, the Arab power. Bush is not seeking to save anyone but, as Senator Kennedy said in the U.S. Congress, his principal objective is oil [preceding word in English].

[Arbex] Was the invasion of Kuwait a violation of international law?

['Arafat] That is a very old problem which has existed since the time of the Iraqi royal family (the period under 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim). This problem began long before Saddam's regime. I have been mediating between the two sides since 1972. I even managed to bring about a cease-fire when hostilities broke out at that time and arranged a meeting between the two sides.

[Arbex] Would the PLO be involved in a ground battle?

['Arafat] We do not have soldiers in the region, and Saddam does not need my support.

[Arbex] Would Israel participate?

['Arafat] First, Israel is already participating. Cruise missiles are being launched from the Negev region. Second, Israel is the U.S. main arsenal in the region. Furthermore, there are Israeli Air Force soldiers participating at some U.S. air bases. They are being prepared for engagement at a specific time to open a secondary western front.

[Arbex] Do you believe there will be any change in the Soviet policy regarding its support for the coalition and the war?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly. From the beginning, Moscow—as well as China, the Nonaligned Movement, and others—have stated that the attacks exceeded the UN mandate. Talks between Moscow and Baghdad will continue. A Nonaligned Movement meeting held in Belgrade a few days ago reached the same conclusions.

[Arbex] You frequently refer to the Arab nation and to Arab power. All that seems to be simply fiction. This war has shown that the Arab states are completely divided...

['Arafat] Arab rulers are divided: the rulers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. You know that even in these countries there are widespread demonstrations against the enemies of Iraq. Those participating in these demonstrations are the Arab nation. Demonstrations are not only being staged in Arab nations.

Demonstrations are also spreading in Africa, Asia, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, San Francisco, and in Latin America. We are not talking about government leaders. We are talking about the deep-seated feelings of nations. Don't forget that many European governments supported Hitler during World War II. Does this perhaps mean that their respective nations supported Nazism? By no means.

[Arbex] But, leaving the concept of the Arab nation aside, every time the Arab governments radicalized their positions against Israel, the Palestinians were the first to pay the price. Did the PLO consider the possibility of supporting the anti-Iraqi coalition as a tactical move to preserve the worldwide support it has gained through the intifadah? Could it be a mistake to support Saddam?

['Arafat] Why did the United Nations fail to guarantee us our rights before the Gulf crisis? I had a written agreement with George Shultz (the secretary of state under Ronald Reagan). We even accepted the Baker Plan. What were Israel's and Washington's responses to every peace initiative? They were completely negative.

[Arbex] But the point is that the Israeli Government was being forced into a growing isolation by the intifadah. Now, by your support for Saddam, Israel has new arguments against the PLO.

['Arafat] That is happening only because Bush wants to preserve his alliance with Israel. Before the crisis, we were reaching a point of complete deadlock. Israel was giving inflexible, totally negative answers to our initiatives. When the crisis began, what alternatives did we have? Yet, the current political situation in Israel and in the occupied territories is purely temporary and cannot be maintained for long. Some solution will have to be found.

[Arbex] Yet, what will happen if Saddam loses the war?

['Arafat] What will be the consequences if he wins? There are two questions. You must ask both things. In any event, there will not be stability in the area without resolving the Palestinian issue. Even the coalition admits this, though from their own perspective. They know this. They know that the "x" of the equation in the region is the Palestinian issue. In this respect, the final result of the war is not important.

[Arbex] Apparently, Israel, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are preparing a new offensive against the Palestinians ...

['Arafat] It is not true. It is Israel and Washington that are continuing the aggressions against the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, including the killing of my brothers and closer assistants like Abu-Jihad [name as published] a few weeks ago.

[Arbex] Yet Syria, along with Israel, is participating in the siege on the Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon. Furthermore, Israel is accusing the PLO of having ordered the missile attack from Lebanon. Can you confirm this claim?

['Arafat] No one in Israel—no military man, politician, or expert—can convince anyone that the struggle in that region has been interrupted since 1982. The Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon, the bombings, or the air raids have been permanent; they were never interrupted. We have the right to defend ourselves, and this does not just apply to the Palestinians. The Lebanese are also resisting the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon.

[Arbex] Yet, you are struggling for an entity—the Palestine state—that, from a historic and geopolitical viewpoint, has never existed because Palestine historically corresponds to a region in southern Syria.

['Arafat] You must read the Bible, because it contains abundant historic references that demonstrate the existence of a cultural and geopolitical Palestinian identity for many thousands of years. For example: When David lost his kingdom, he went to the kingdom of Palestine, where he lived four years and, with the help of the

Palestinian king, he recovered his throne. There is a strong specific Palestinian identity that is expressed in regional terms.

[Arbex] Yet if we take the Bible as a reference we would have to admit, for example, that Israel has a right to Samaria and Judea, which constitute the West Bank territory.

['Arafat] Samaria and Judea belonged to Israel for an extremely brief 70-year period—insignificant in historical terms—but belonged to Palestine before and after that period. Even during that period, the Palestinians established a kingdom of their own in Gaza. Do you remember Samson and Delilah? Samson would have done anything to destroy his enemies, even at the cost of his own life. The Palestinians controlled Egypt for more than 300 years. Does this give us any right to occupy Egypt?

[Arbex] You are being accused by Israel of heading a terrorist organization. For this same reason, Washington has already refused to give you an entry visa for the United States of America. What is the image you have of your own organization? Do you believe that terrorism is a valid recourse?

['Arafat] This accusation has been made against all those who some day have struggled for liberty. Zapata was accused of terrorism. The Nazis accused Charles de Gaulle of terrorism. George Washington was described as a terrorist by the British empire. Gandhi too. Nelson Mandela was accused of terrorism and held in prison for 27 years in South Africa. All the leaders of the new independent African states have been described as terrorists.

[Arbex] Would you be willing to abandon your olive branch in order to achieve your goals in this specific situation in the Gulf?

['Arafat] Do not forget that I have said: In one hand, I carry an olive branch. In the other hand, I carry a weapon to protect it.

[Arbex] In general political terms, how has the process of reforms in the East [East Europe] affected you? Do you consider yourself a socialist?

['Arafat] No. I consider myself a liberal.

[Arbex] What about the belief by the PLO that it is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians? Do you believe that this attitude resembles the totalitarian, Stalinist belief of the Communist parties that were defeated by the reform in East Europe, which thought they were the only ones who had all the answers?

['Arafat] Do not forget that the intifadah complies with every one of the PLO standing orders. Why do you think it does so? Why do the Palestinians use in their demonstrations signs and symbols that have historically identified the PLO?

[Arbex] Isn't the intifadah a spontaneous movement born outside the PLO? Or are you asserting that the PLO commands and organizes the intifada?

['Arafat] Do you doubt this? Go to the occupied territories and see for yourself. The Israeli agents murdered my brother Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] because they were sure that he was the one responsible for the reorganization of resistance in the occupied territories. They believed that by murdering Jihad they would stop the intifadah. They continue to say that the PLO is behind the intifadah. Now, after four years of struggle, you ask me if the PLO is behind the intifadah? That is not fair.

[Arbex] Do the splits within the PLO, however, challenge your capacity of governing a state?

['Arafat] Are you against democracy or pluralism? We are proud of our democracy. We are one of the strongest democracies in the region. Are you against that? We are proud of this pluralism. I am not a dictator. I was elected in a free and democratic atmosphere and the Palestinians have the right to oust me at any time. Caliph Omar once said: "May God bless those who criticize me." I say the same; it makes me stronger.

[Arbex] It has been reported that the PLO is entirely disorganized and that it is not in a position to negotiate anything.

['Arafat] I believe that I should not even answer this question. The PLO is called the Phoenix. The enemies of the PLO will have to repeat these stupid lies many more times. It would be better if everyone kept the following point clearly in their minds: There will be no peace or stability in the Middle East until the full rights of the Palestinians are restored and this implies the recognition and acceptance of the PLO. As Saddam says, O-I-L only with the P-L-O [O-I-L so com O-L-P].

[Arbex] Former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan believed that the Palestinians could be incorporated into the Israeli society through an economic policy that granted them good salaries and a good standard of living. Like this, after some time the Palestinians would even have to accept and defend the government that enabled them to live a decent life. Do you believe that this could happen in the medium term?

['Arafat] You must remember that the intifadah began among the people who received high salaries. The most well-paid Palestinians were the ones to start the movement. There is no economic reason for the intifada. We have a nobler objective: to free our holy land. This is worth much more than oil and money. I will repeat Jesus Christ's words: We are not the merchants of the temple in Jerusalem.

[Arbex] You were a millionaire. You visited many countries as a tourist and you had a great deal of money.

['Arafat] I still have a great deal of money. Everyone knows that I receive no salary from the PLO. I still live on the money I made as an engineer.

[Arbex] Nonetheless, you have given up the "dolce vita," the women, and the tourism trips. Do you regret that?

['Arafat] In my youth, I toured most of the world for sheer pleasure. I visited Venice, the Tirol, Paris, Barcelona, and Stockholm, but there is something I regret; I lost precious time on these trips and in making money. My fight is more precious than any amount of money. I am fighting for the holy land. I am following the stations of the cross. I now feel wealthier than ever.

[Arbex] To what extent are you motivated by personal ambitions, by power?

['Arafat] What ambition can withstand the pressure I am under every day, every hour? What commercial spirit would withstand that? I am very happy and I have unlimited confidence in my fight. You cannot imagine the value of that.

Officials Decries Saddam's 'Mother of Disasters'

PM2102145891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Feb 91 p 2

[Unattributed report on interview with Sa'id Khalil al-Muzayyin (Abu-Hisham), former Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh and official in charge of the Jerusalem Committee, in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—What Saddam calls "the mother of battles" is nothing but the mother of disasters for Iraq, the Arab nation as a whole, and the Palestinians in particular. This was stressed by Sa'id Khalil al-Muzayyin (Abu-Hisham), former Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh and official in charge of the Jerusalem Committee.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Muzayyin said that Saddam has betrayed all the hands that have helped him, that he has divided the Arab nation, and that he only wanted to achieve his own personal ambitions, even if innocent blood is shed for the wrong cause.

He pointed out that the lives of over a million Palestinians who supported the intifadah and worked in Kuwait has been ruined as a result of "the mother of disasters," as their aid to their steadfast kinfolk in the occupied territories has been cut off.

At the beginning of his interview, al-Muzayyin emphasized some facts so that truth can prevail and in order to set matters straight. These facts are as follows: First, Israel and the Zionist movement benefit most from the war, which Saddam calls "the mother of battles," whereas in fact it is "the mother of disasters."

Second, the Palestinian homeland—its people, territory, cause, revolution, intifadah, and state—is the principal target of that masked conspiracy. As for them, they are plotting a scheme. I too am formulating a plan. So grant unbelievers a pause: Give respite to them gently (for a while). [Koranic Verse]

Third, many Arab states, their governments, parties, and media have contributed to Saddam's heroics, driving him to this destructive arrogance to inflict all these calamities on Iraq and its helpless people.

Fourth, in his aggressive war against Iran Saddam Husayn's objective was not to protect the Arab nation's eastern gate. Nor was his plan, in occupying Kuwait, to liberate Palestine. Behind the two unjust battles lies deception for our nation and people. [passage omitted]

The former Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh said that as a result of "the mother of disasters" thousands of Jewish emigrants from all over the world have poured into our occupied Palestine, thus strengthening Israel and those that support it. It has been said that those huge [Iraqi] armies were heading for Jerusalem, for a new Hittin, but suddenly they drowned in Kuwait. Those who suffered for long from the Zionist havoc saw nothing but a few missiles that have granted Israel abundant prosperity—arms, money, and political support that has disrupted all the balances to the invaders' benefit. [passage omitted]

Al-Muzayyin said: We see the war raging on all fronts, and we have never heard of a single true Palestinian playing a "fifth column" role in any way. This means that the dreams of the advocates of the "mother of disasters" of driving our people into the furnaces of sedition have evaporated, now that they have discovered that our people do not betray the territories that have hosted them or the peoples that have embraced and looked after them. This is because betrayal, treachery, and ingratitude belong to the advocates of the "mother of disasters," who have betrayed those who helped them in difficult times. They have betrayed those who protected their rear for a long eight years. Such characteristics can never be ascribed to the people of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the people of the intifadah.

The Palestinian official said that under the shadow of "the mother of disasters" and through the spears of betrayal and treachery that it embodies, the Palestinian leadership has lost two mainstays. They are Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid (Abu-al-Hawl). Through that abominable crime the Palestinian leadership's second wing has been amputated. The first wing was broken over 30 months ago by the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir (Abu-Jihad), father of the intifadah. With that painful blow to the Palestinian leadership, the "mother of disasters" deluded itself that it had succeeded in dragging our entire people into its aggressive strategy designed to drive them to total destruction, away from their territory, cause, and hopes.

But our people—whom Almighty God has protected against every evil conspiracy, from the Black September 1970 conspiracy, through the August 1990 conspiracy hatched by the leader of the advocates of the "mother of disasters—will overcome the dilemma and continue their glorious march, surrounded by all the sons of our great nation. [passage omitted]

PLO Attacks South Lebanon Positions

LD2102184491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The PLO issued a statement announcing that the al-Fallujah martyrs unit has shelled the positions of the occupation forces in the border strip in south Lebanon and engaged elements of the hirelings of the Zionist army in the area of Wadi Markabah, inflicting on them losses in lives and equipment.

The Zionist air force yesterday carried out aggresssive air raids on Palestiian positions in western Biqa' in Lebanon.

Algeria

Volunteers Said Prepared To Depart for Iraq

LD1902203491 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 19 Feb 91

[By correspondent Anne Disseize in Algiers]

[Text] In Algeria a first group of about 10 Islamist volunteers is to leave next Sunday for Iraq. More details now from Anne Disseize.

[Disseize] The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] number two, Ali Belhadj, has just announced that 100 Algerian volunteers, who have previously completed their national service and are able to handle weapons, are ready to leave for Iraq. Among them are twenty doctors, who must not be mistaken with those from the two Arab Medical Union delegations.

Shortly after the first bombings the FIS started to develop certain flanking tactics over the war. On 18 January, during a demonstration following a religious service in the mosques, Ali Belhadj, dressed in Algerian Army battle dress, demanded from the government the immediate opening of training camps for young Algerians willing to leave for Iraq. President Chadli Bendjedid firmly rejected the demand in a strong speech in front of the People's National Assembly. Since then the FIS has lowered its tone, and the training camps became jogging sessions in some popular quarters in Algiers and its suburbs.

When he returned from Baghdad, Ali Belhadj announced the creation of these fighters groups for Iraq, and the support of the embassy in Algiers for their dispatch. Today the Iraqi Embassy announced that 600 young Algerians had enrolled to leave—but it made clear that they would have to pay their own fares. It will be interesting to see what publicity the FIS will give to the departure of these 100 young men in case they leave—a fact which is not yet fully certain.

Religious Leader Madani Included

NC2202114591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] One hundred thousand Algerian volunteers are preparing to leave for Baghdad next Sunday [24 February] to fight with Iraqi forces against the U.S.-Atlantic alliance. Reports mention that religious leader 'Abbas Madani is among the volunteers.

Egypt

Reactions to Iraqi Withdrawal Offer Cited

Foreign Ministry Awaiting 'Details'

NC2202113691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Sources at the Foreign Ministry have told our radio correspondent that Egypt is waiting to learn the details of Iraq's acceptance of the withdrawal from Kuwait under the Soviet plan and whether this acceptance is conditional or not.

The Foreign Ministry sources stated that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, yesterday outlined Egypt's position regarding the Soviet initiative. He stated that if it will lead Iraq to fully comply with the UN Security Council resolutions, foremost among them being the full unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there, it will be an appreciated step that will help put an end to the ongoing war, for which Iraq is responsible.

Writer Sees Tacit Defeat in Offer

NC2102231791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Saddam Husayn's Losing Adventure and the Lesson To Be learned To Build the Future"]

[Excerpts] The shift in the course of the Gulf crisis during the past few days is huge and significant by any standard. The shift came about when Iraq announced on Friday its offer—which was to be rejected—that included for the first time a signal of its acceptance of Security Council Resolution No. 660 on withdrawal from Kuwait. The Iraqi offer, as is well known, was turned down, because it did not agree to unconditional withdrawal, as the Security Council resolution provides, and it linked the principle of withdrawal to conditions that were impossible from the viewpoint of the countries participating in the Gulf war. The shift we are referring to is that, instead of the international community—which called with unlimited patience and perseverance for well over five months for a peaceful solution to the crisis and tried to avert a destructive war—it is the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn who is now making the efforts, in fact, not to save Iraq but himself and his regime, if possible.

True, it was the Soviet Union who made the last ditch initiative to avert the carnage of a ground war and reports indicate that the Iraqi signals, made through its foreign minister accepting withdrawal from Kuwait, in fact mean that the Iraqi regime tacitly admits defeat in spite of itself. [passage omitted]

It is the helpless Iraqi people who have paid the exorbitant price in resources and blood. It is Iraq, a country dear to every Arab, that has sustained devastation and destruction on the largest scale. The Arab nation is the loser, on a scale of profit and loss. However, what must be the main preoccupation of the countries and peoples of this noble nation, with its heritage and civilization, are the lessons to be learned and the future. It is a disgrace for the Arab nation to have a tyrant like Saddam Husayn as one of its rulers. He is heedlessly driving his entire population into danger and ruin. [passage omitted]

Those who know the situation and realities of the region where we live in this modern age understand that this region is on the threshold of a completely new historical stage by every standard. The first concern of the Arab nation's countries and peoples must be to grasp their fate in their hands. No power can impose itself on this nation against its will, or force it to accept what is not consistent with its vital interests. Implanting freedom and democracy in the Arab conscience is an easy matter. It is limitlessly hard. [as heard] It requires first and foremost to believe in them as the sole guarantee for dignified human life. There is no alternative to this, if we want to forge ahead on the correct and shortest path to progress. Moreover, the Arab nation's peoples should live in accordance with the conditions of the age and know how to coexist with its realities and circumstances. The reality of the world we are living in is governed by interests and hard facts. False slogans and shining claims are futile, misleading, and a waste of life. Let what Saddam Husayn has done to the Iraqi people and to his entire Arab nation be an unforgettable lesson.

AL-AKHBAR Rejects 'Appeasement'

NC2102121391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] In an editorial, AL-AKHBAR says: Regardless of the good intentions behind the initiative which Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has submitted to the Iraqi dictator to rescue Iraq from an inescapable catastrophe and regardless of the talk on the need for an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from occupied Kuwait, the other points contained in the initiative can only be described as conditions or at least maneuvers designed to tempt the Baghdad ruler to back down by fulfilling some of the demands which he announced last week and which were rejected outright by the leaders of the international alliance forces.

AL-AKHBAR adds: UN Security Council Resolution No. 660 is clear, specific, and frank. It demands an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal. Any other interpretations or additional demands of any kind by any side that are not included in the UN Security Council resolutions are considered a departure from the council's unanimity and hence are unacceptable. In addition, Saddam Husayn has not shown intentions that indicate he confesses his crime or that he will stop carrying out the ugly and barbaric acts toward Kuwaiti civilians in their occupied homeland.

AL-AKHBAR concludes: There is no room for any compromise with or appeasement of the head of the Iraqi regime, who has lost all human feelings and who has committed the ugliest crimes against his own people and comrades now that he is very close to the doors of hell. Saddam Husayn must fully understand that the time of maneuvering and deception has gone forever and that he has no option but to withdraw completely and without any conditions if he still has a small desire to rescue his country and poor people.

Paper Rejects Withdrawal Conditions

PM2102155891 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Feb 91 p 1

[Editorial: "The Storm Will Not Subside"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Although Baghdad's ruler announced yesterday, for the first time since his treacherous invasion, that he is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait; although, in practical terms, that announcement reflects the despair and certain defeat of the Iraqi regime as it collapses under the crushing blows of the forces of international legitimacy; and although the Iraqi tyrant's statement delivered in the name of the Command Council of his evil revolution marks the beginning of the inevitable end of this crazy butcher, the long preamble with which the Iraqi regime introduced its statement yesterday is full of totally rejected and exposed historical prevarications. The long list of conditions attached to a withdrawal from Kuwait are completely unacceptable, because they conflict in many ways, in both form and substance, with the international will and with the letter and spirit of the Security Council resolutions.

The UN resolutions on the Gulf crisis are an indivisible whole. One resolution cannot be implemented to the exclusion of the rest. The Security Council was clear in its last resolution, which clearly set a deadline for peace and linked it to Iraq's implementation of all its resolutions, neither cut nor amended.

The international community was also clear when it insisted on a fundamental principle in the new international order, namely, that the aggressor must not reap a price or a reward for its aggression, invasion, or occupation. The exorbitant price that Iraq is demanding for its withdrawal is totally rejected in its principle, content, and style.

Furthermore, the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as requested by the Security Council is a complete and unconditional withdrawal linked to the unconditional restoration of the legitimate government, completely eliminating all Iraqi claims and allegations of historical rights related to complete or partial annexation of Kuwait or its islands. This fully repudiates the explicit and implicit conditions in the Iraqi statement.

Additionally, the new Saddam statement still insists on linking the Kuwaiti issue to the Palestinian issue and all other problems of the region. This link is rejected internationally, legally, and politically; but it confirms that, despite its rout and defeat, the Iraqi regime is still the victim of its illusions and obstinacy and still resorts to obvious maneuvers which deceive nobody.

Perhaps the strangest thing about the Iraqi statement is that the vanquished side is dictating conditions to the victor—a strange precedent that demonstrates the Iraqi leadershp's delirium and madness.

The Desert Storm war was launched on the basis of a clear Security Council resolution and on the basis of international legitimacy. The storm will not subside, the guns will not fall silent, and there will be no cease-fire unless all the UN resolutions are implemented and Kuwait is unconditionally liberated and its legitimate government restored.

This is the beginning of the tyrant's end and it will not be long before we witness his complete collapse and downfall and celebrate by raising our flags high in our beloved Kuwait.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Assesses Gulf Crisis Situation

NC2002204291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Interview with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Faridah al-Shubashi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text][al-Shubashi] Your Excellency brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, how do you assess the situation as the Gulf war enters its second month and also in light of the Iraqi initiative and the U.S. reply [word indistinct]?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] [words indistinct] poses many question marks [words indistinct] the Gulf war, the war for the liberation of Kuwait. [words indistinct] Is it a war to destroy Iraq, or is it to terrorize the Arab nation? Is it a war for revenge, or is it a war to test the sophisticated Western hardware? They found [words indistinct] called Iraq. [words indistinct] The truth is that I am not convinced that there is a serious determination to fight imperialism and Zionism and to liberate the Arab nation. I have many doubts [words indistinct] I have nothing to prove that [words indistinct] that these parties [word indistinct] imply some seriousness toward imperialism.

The main victims are the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people. The Iraqi leadership [words indistinct] have become clear, and reaching understanding with it, after this. However, the people who are dying [words indistinct] no one will remain with whom understanding could be reached. [words indistinct] 20,000 have been killed [words indistinct] Iraq announces that the withdrawal from Kuwait is a serious matter, and that Iraq is serious in withdrawing from Kuwait [words indistinct] destroy Iraq [words indistinct]. It has seriously affirmed that it will withdraw. That is why the continuation of the violent raids against Iraq [words indistinct] Iraqi initiative as if there is a purpose to implement it expeditiously before peace.

In fact, the Arab nation is now hardly in control of its nerves. We are almost certain that the objective of America and its allies is neither the restoration of Kuwait nor peace. However, there is a (?desire) for revenge and aggression. At a certain point, which has not arrived yet, [words indistinct] we might declare—I am personally responsible [word indistinct] for this—that the front will extend from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf against America and its interests. This does not at all mean that I am in favor of the occupation of Kuwait. On the contrary, it is my constant policy that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. But since Iraq has responded to this, why has there been continued and escalating bombardment, and particularly against Baghdad, now? It is as if there are remaining Iraqi cities and infrastructure that must be destroyed before ceasing operations. This is impermissible revenge that may prompt us afterward to declare a revolution from the ocean to the Gulf. All revolutionary forces are awaiting an appeal from me. World [word indistinct] forces are awaiting an appeal from me in this regard. The world popular Islamic leadership is also awaiting an appeal from me in this regard. All these forces are constantly putting pressure on me. However, I wanted to give peace a chance and I do not want the world to collapse. This is because, if I declare to the Arab revolutionary forces, the Islamic forces, and world [words indistinct] that they should join the battle, this means every continent will turn into a theater of acts of violence. This will happen when it becomes clear to us that America and its allies are carrying out an aggression against Iraq and that their aim is not the restoration of Kuwait. At the same time, I warn the Arabs who have persisted in relying on America in order to take revenge on their brothers: If we were with them at one time, they will eventually—I tell them—find themselves isolated and they will regret it. This is because the ally they are depending on is not worthy of this dependence. My stand is not one-upmanship, bribes, ambitions distributed here and there, and settlement of scores between Arab regimes and between opposition and ruling powers. [words indistinct] my stand is that of a brother. If I declare it, it will be a historic and genuine stand. [words indistinct] question marks [words indistinct].

On the other hand, our brothers in Iraq did not ask for anybody's participation and consulted nobody. So far, the Soviet Union says that the fewer the parties aware of the peaceful solution the better. In other words, this is a secret between the brothers in Iraq and the Soviet Union. I do not care if this is a secret between them if it leads to stopping the war. However, Iraq is being set ablaze now and the issue remains secret. An Iraqi leadership member visited us recently. He did not tell us that they would do what they did last Friday, nor that they had an initiative. He did not ask our opinion or what was expected from us. He talked about something else completely different from the initiative announced by Iraq on Friday. This leadership envoy was in Yemen on Friday, where he said something different.

The least that [the Iraqis] could have done was for them to tell these countries that supported Iraq, such as Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, and Sudan the following: We have an initiative [words indistinct] in appreciation of your position and your opinion. If [words indistinct] this initiative. Please, [words indistinct] Iraq has not contacted us at all. Nor has it asked us to do anything. It went to Iran and the USSR. [words indistinct] You gave the USSR [words indistinct] I actually (?blame) the USSR over the $400 million it obtained from Saudi Arabia. [words indistinct] It is sacrificing its interests for the sake of peace and Iraq. The USSR has been dragged into this economic ordeal, into a big impasse. [words indistinct] a secret. It is neither secret nor publicized. The initiative that [words indistinct]. The whole thing is immaterial, if viewed against the fact that the Iraqi people are now being burned in an infernal fire. [words indistinct] the Iraqi people [words indistinct] occupied Kuwait. [words indistinct] that Kuwait is an indivisible part of Iraq [words indistinct] and that they are serious about withdrawal from Kuwait. Any talk to this effect has created questions, so that it is often heard that the whole scenario we are hearing of was agreed upon, just like the Ramadan war that secured recognition for Israel.

[Al-Shubashi] Brother leader, what reactions have you received to the Libyan initiative regarding a cease-fire? Have there been any reactions, considering that it was the only initiative made by an Arab party after the Iraqi declaration?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is possible that the brothers in Iraq were not interested in it. The initiative was not even carried by the Iraqi radio station. Nor was it published in the Iraqi news media. Consequently, [words indistinct] and answered us saying: Even Iraq has shown no interest in your initiative. [words indistinct] How then do you demand (?a position) on this initiative from [words indistinct] France, the USSR, or any other party?

[Al-Shubashi] In light of the new equations, how are Libya's relations with its two major Arab neighboring states: Egypt and Sudan, considering that each of them has a different stand on the Gulf dispute?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] At any rate, the Gulf crisis is a transient one. It is not eternal. What is permanent are the Sudanese people, the Egyptian people, and the Libyan people on Arab lands, which make up a continuous mass of land. We do not view inter-Arab ties and Arab unity against the background of the Kuwait crisis. We were upholding Arab unity before the independence of Kuwait and before it was occupied. The issue regarding Arab unity concerns the destiny of this nation. Therefore, we should (?forget) all transient and temporary differences—press talk, media pronouncements, intelligence reports, border problems, issues related to the activities of students, workers, and airline passengers, and planes fleeing [words indistinct] seriousness of unity, its true nature, and its inevitability at least among Egypt, Libya, and Sudan. The givens of this unity are firm. They are not liable to change. [words indistinct]

[Al-Shubashi] Do you think that the effects of the Gulf war (?affect) Egyptian-Algerian relations and Morocco's ties with the rest of the countries in the coalition, as Morocco has almost withdrawn from the coalition?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In fact, Morocco is not part of the coalition. At an early stage, Morocco sent symbolic units to Saudi Arabia, in view of the special bilateral relations between the two countries as brothers and Arabs. He [not further identified] asked them for help or for a service, which they volunteered to offer, because in those days, Saudi Arabia was afraid that the Iraqi forces might advance on Saudi Arabia after Kuwait. This is an ordinary matter that does not mean Morocco is allied with these forces, that is, Morocco is not in the coalition on the side of Britain, America, Canada, and Australia. [Words indistinct] the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Arab nation. What is important is that, within the context of Arab alliance [words indistinct], the international coalition [words indistinct]. At any rate, there has been haste in sending (?Iraqi) Syrian, and Moroccan forces to the region. This (?deepens) the sense that an armed confrontation might occur between Iraqi and Syrian forces in that region. [words indistinct] Syria and Iraq (?fight one another). In fact, [words indistinct] Egyptian and Western forces, because it may lead to a confrontation between Iraq and Morocco, or between Iraq and Egypt. This is what Zionist and imperialist circles want: That Arabs weaken and fight one another. [words indistinct] that Iraq attacked a Syrian post and fired missiles [words indistinct]. The enemies want Arabs to fight one another [words indistinct]

[Al-Shubashi] In this dark tunnel, if I can put it that way, how do you view the future of the Palestinian issue given the probabilities that this conflict might be over, whether by the failure of the foreign forces to defeat Iraq, or Iraq's steadfastness?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] As a matter of fact, the Kuwaiti issue took place at the expense of the Palestinian issue. It (?diluted) the intifadah and diverted world attention [words indistinct]. The effect of the Kuwaiti issue was not of benefit to the intifadah.

The Israelis have seized the opportunity and intensified their efforts against the intifadah during the crisis of Kuwait. For [word indistinct] the Gulf war, the Israelis have done everything they want in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in particular, and inside the 1948-occupied Palestine, even in secret. Firing Iraqi missiles at the Israelis has not achieved a concrete outcome; that is, striking military positions, destroying the Dimona reactor, or inflicting significant damage. It has, however, with respect to morale, produced a positive effect on the intifadah, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation in general. For, today the Israelis could be struck. This has led to a counteremigration from Palestine. But there was no need to involve Kuwait. It could have been a [word indistinct] battle between us and the Israelis [words indistinct], Israel striking us by aircraft, thus inflaming the popular war, until Palestine is liberated.

This should not have been done through Kuwait [word indistinct] and an Arab-Arab confrontation. However, it [word indistinct] not a studied political Arab plan. Firing missiles at Israelis, considered with respect to morale, is positive. It gives support to the Arabs and Palestinians against the Israelis. But this does not resolve the issue. These missiles cannot resolve the issue of Palestine. The Palestine question requires a strategic program so it can be resolved within the political (?and) military framework. It requires a historical strategic program to be applied through a number of stages [word indistinct] the whole nation.

[Al-Shubashi] Regarding the Palestine question, it is clear that it has touched off a persistent question in the Arab arena, and perhaps the international; namely, why use double standards regarding UN resolutions and the implementation of international legitimacy? Do you believe.... [changes thought] Do you have information regarding some U.S. guarantees for the Arabs to apply UN resolutions also in relation to the Palestine question?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is axiomatic that [words indistinct] what we differ over if we say that whatever United States wanted to apply toward that end, it would only be in the interest of the Israelis. Even if the United States wanted to apply UN resolutions, it would be in the interest of the Israelis alone. Therefore, I am not optimistic that when the Kuwaiti issue is over, attention will focus on the Palestine question, the Middle East issue, and the international conference. On the contrary, I am very pessimistic about this, because it would only be in the interest of the Israelis, and not the Arabs. Addressing and resolving the Palestine question should be done by the Arabs, through Arab will and capabilities. Thus, the scales would turn in favor of the Arabs in every aspect. This could be achieved through Arab unity, [word indistinct] and the continuation of the struggle. But, through this onslaught and [word indistinct] they will have the upper hand in resolving the Middle East problem and Palestine. This would undoubtedly be in the interest of our enemy. I am very pessimistic about the international conference and the post-Kuwait arrangements that are being talked about. I would like to caution the Arab nation not to be exultant over these propositions; on the contrary, they should be circumspect, because there will be a danger to the Arabs, their independence, and to the Palestine question if it were resolved within the international alliance and under the U.S. umbrella.

[Al-Shubashi] Brother leader of the revolution, Chadian President Idriss Deby recently visited the Jamahiriyah, or he may still be here. Have there been certain agreements for cooperation between the two countries?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] A normal and traditionally fraternal cooperation has existed, and should have continued, except for the period of Habre's [presidency], which ruined the fraternal relationship between the two countries, provoked border problems, brought in imperialism, and turned Chad into an imperialist base. We, the Chadian and Libyan peoples are brothers in Arabdom and with regard to people, creed, and history. We fought alongside each other against the Italians and the French. We fought [word indistinct] in Chad and Chadians fought in Libya. Currently, we believe that the situation in Chad has been corrected. We are the ones who said we wanted Chad to be stable, independent, free from foreign intervention, and to maintain good relations with its neighbors. We said (?we did not object to relations) between Chad and the United States and Chad and France. If this is in Chad's interest, let them be established. However, in the past it was not in Chad's interest. Imperialism turned Chad into a military base for aggression and disregarded the Chadian people's interests and stability.

It is the imperialists who contributed to the civil war in Chad, which lasted for more than 20 years. However, Chad has corrected its situation and wants to establish relations that are beneficial to the Chadian people and that are based on mutual respect and benefit with the United States, France, and with any country [words indistinct]. So far, everything has returned to normal. In the past, not only Chad was in this situation. There were conspiracies in Chad, in Tunis, Niger, Egypt, and Sudan. Imperialism really exploited Numayri, al-Sadat, Bourguiba, and Kountche and made them hostile to Libya. However, al-Sadat and Numayri fell and Kountche met his end [Niger's president died of illness in 1987]. Currently these people are really peace-loving, and desire fraternity and good neighborliness. Bourguiba also fell. Relief did not come from Chad alone, but also from several places, particularly Tunisia on 7 November [the 1987 coup in Tunisia]. If it had not been for Zine El Abidine, Tunisia's stand on the Gulf war would have been completely different. We should not rule out the possibility that, if the 7 November events had not taken place, U.S. aircraft would now be landing and refueling in Tunisia in order to attack Iraq and then return, just as they do now in some countries that are under U.S. control. The position taken by Zine El Abidine on the Gulf War and the 7 November events have been good. This actually validates everything I personally used to say about the 7 November change. I used to say it was a good, patriotic, and pan-Arab [word indistinct] and this is a new African star.

Others used to say: You are deceived. This is not a correct analysis; this a U.S. coup and this is a general who has been brought to power by U.S. intelligence. However, we find that Tunisia after the 7 November change is facing up to America. Actually, with this stand it blew up the bridges between it and America and France and all the countries of the anti-Iraq coalition.

Tunisia, in fact, now maintains an untarnished pan-Arab position. Had Zine El Abidine been a general brought to power by America, he would have now been at the disposal of the international alliance. The international alliance is now deprived of any support by Tunisia. This is the official Tunisian position; let alone the popular position. Even the Tunisian official position expressed anger against the alliance, against America, against imperialism, against Zionism, and even against France. It was thought that the relations between France and Tunisia were good. But after it entered the war against Iraq, the Tunisian position (?toward Libya) is rational, committed, and looks toward other horizons, and is not hypocritical. The Tunisian position until now is regarded as revolutionary. I think that America, France, and the imperialist states still hope that Tunisia will be one of their satellites, or one of their spheres of influence. [words indistinct] These changes are very important. Changes have taken place not only in Chad, but also in Tunisia. We have been patient, struggled, maintained our principles, and endured. The bad conditions changed into good ones. In the end [words indistinct] achieved in Tunisia, Chad, (?Egypt), and Sudan. [words indistinct] in the remaining Arab states and the world. We are maintaining our principles and persisting [words indistinct] a world revolution that will not be undermined quickly. It will change the world. The world will change to Jamahiriyah. The age of the masses whose banner is raised by the al-Fatih revolution will triumph.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, brother colonel, leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. One thousand thanks.

Protocols Signed With Burkina Faso 20 Feb

LD2102162191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Feb (JANA)—The protocol of the third Libyan Arab-Burkinabe joint committee session was signed yesterday in Tripoli.

The clauses of the protocol, which was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Transport and Salif Diallo, secretary of state for the presidency and member of the Executive Committee of the People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, stipulated the development and improvement of existing relations between the great Jamahiriyah and the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso in the spheres of economics, information, communications, transport, and health.

During the signing ceremony, the instruments of ratification of a general agreement on joint cooperation and another agreement in the field of veterinary health and also on the setting up of a joint company in the sphere of agricultural and animal production between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso were exchanged.

Following the signing of the protocol of the Libyan Arab-Burkinabe joint committee, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Transport made a speech in which he stressed that the people of the great Jamahiriyah and the Burkinabe people are working for the liberation of the African continent, reaffirmation of the slogan "Africa for Africans," and that they are laying the foundation stone for development, improvement, and reliance on the indigenous capabilities of the two friendly countries.

Salif Diallo, secretary of state for the presidency and member of the Executive Committee of the People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah of Burkina, also made a speech in which he conveyed the thanks and appreciation of President Blaise Campaore to the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution and the people of the great Jamahiriyah. He praised in his speech the unlimited assistance given by the great al-Fatih revolution to the Burkinabe people to enable them to confront reaction, imperialism, and the enemies of the African continent who are laying in wait to harm it and seize its goods and capabilities.

Morocco

Paper Comments on Iraqi Peace Proposals

PM2102145691 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 19 Feb 91 p 1

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Negotiating on Negotiations"]

[Text] During the Cabinet meeting which he chaired at the Rabat Royal Palace on Saturday 16 February, his majesty the king said that "Morocco welcomed with satisfaction the stance adopted by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn announcing his agreement to withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with Security Council Resolution 660. This stance is a positive step toward a just peace in the region which, to be lasting, must be based on safeguarding the Iraqi people's dignity, not humiliating them, and respecting their territorial integrity."

Thus the king considered the Iraqi declaration to be a positive step toward peace.

It must be remembered that during a Cabinet meeting held on 2 August after the invasion of Kuwait, Morocco condemned the annexation of that country, expressing the view that it was contrary to international law and Arab solidarity.

Here is the communique issued on this subject by the Information Ministry:

"His Majesty King Hassan II, may God give him glory, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid, chaired an extraordinary Cabinet meeting late this morning, 2 August 1990, at the Rabat Royal Palace, devoted to examining the implications of the invasion of the Emirate of Kuwait by Iraqi troops.

"The Cabinet strongly condemned the military occupation of fraternal Kuwait—an occupation carried out in violation of all the fundamental principles which govern international law and the rules and practices of international relations.

"These flagrant violations, moreover, run counter to the UN Charter and the Arab League Charter, based on the principle of solidarity among member states."

Now that Saddam Husayn states that he is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait, the main cause of the conflict has been removed and this is particularly true because, since the annexation of the emirate, Baghdad has regarded Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province and did not accept that it could withdraw. There has therefore been considerable progress, in accordance with Security Council resolution 660 to which the Iraqi declaration refers and which demanded that "Iraq immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its forces and return them to the positions they occupied on 1 August 1990."

The Iraqi statement puts forward a number of conditions for this withdrawal. But the essential thing, notably for those who aspire to a peaceful settlement, is acceptance of withdrawal for the first time since the crisis started.

If the essential thing is withdrawal, the conditions put forward may seem secondary. The United Nations is not bound by those conditions, which were clearly formulated to allow the Iraqi president to save face. And, as in any negotiations, we must distinguish between what is acceptable and what is not. It would be a serious matter to reject all the Iraqi proposals, and if the coalition is not prepared to accept them, the Security Council does not have the same reasons or the same viewpoint. It does not have to save face in this affair and its only concern must be respect for international law and the restoration of peace. And it must give its verdict because it adopted the resolutions it deemed necessary to secure withdrawal from Kuwait.

The council must therefore take Saddam Husayn at his word to some extent and decide to bring all the protagonists together around a table to discuss methods of withdrawal. The opportunity for this exists. It must be seized.

Regarding the conditions put forward by Iraq, they will be the subject of negotiations in a new phase during which all additional questions will be examined, such as the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region, security, independence, and the integrity of all states in the region, and the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict by recognition of the Palestinian Arab state.

This is the process which must be started. The Security Council is Iraq's natural interlocutor in this affair and it is up to it to agree to the withdrawal from Kuwait and to let us jointly draw up the methods of doing so in an initial phase.

In a way, it is a question of negotiating on negotiations, and this first phase is very delicate. This is one more reason for the Security Council, which has no feelings to protect, to deal with this affair and accept the withdrawal proposed by Iraq. After that and only after that we will move on to the second phase of negotiations to open the way, as his majesty the king told the cabinet, to a just peace in the region, based on the preservation of the dignity of the Iraqi people, not humiliating them, and respecting their territorial integrity.

Bahrain

Cabinet Discusses 'Negative Effects' on Economy

NC1702134891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 Feb (WAKH)—The Bahraini Council of Ministers today held a regular session under Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

Following the session, Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, made a statement in which he said that his highness the prime minister began the meeting by reviewing the latest developments of the current military and political situation in the region and the war's effects on the economic situation in the region in general. The Council also discussed the economic activity in the country.

His highness the prime minister expressed appreciation for the joint efforts being exerted to reactivate the economy and overcome the negative effects. He indicated that the war has cast its pall over the development process in all Arab Gulf states.

His highness the prime minister called on the ministerial financial and economic committee and the competent quarters to study the possibilities of expediting the reactivation of the economy on all levels, in light of the facts and developments pertaining to economy and development.

The foreign minister briefed the council on the results of meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, Egypt, and Syria, which was held in Cairo recently. [passage omitted]

Gulf Press Views Iraqi Statement as 'Devious'

NC1602124191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 16 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] Manama, 16 Feb (WAKH)—[passage omitted] The United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-BAYAN expresses its belief that the Iraqi statement can be interpreted in one of two ways: Either as a last attempt to emerge from the crisis that the Iraqi leadership is facing, or as a devious eleventh-hour gimmick in order to obtain a cease-fire, gain time, and release a smokescreen just before the last and decisive phase of the battle to liberate Kuwait begins.

In a commentary published today, AL-BAYAN says that in either case, what is doubtless is that the Iraqi statement has officially abandoned the pretext to which Iraq has so far tenaciously clung to justify its aggression. The statement has struck from the record the allegations of historical right, the return of the branch to the origin, Iraqi territorial integrity, and other claims that the Iraqi leadership kept making since 2 August.

AL-BAYAN concludes by saying: We still hope that the conditions for withdrawal made in this statement are merely aimed at domestic consumption as a face-saving effort, and that the genuine part of the Iraqi position is the willingness to withdraw in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 660, which calls for full and unconditional withdrawal. If this were true, then we would say that the Iraqi statement represents a real change and a subjective move toward a cease-fire and toward limiting the damage caused by the catastrophe. [passage omitted]

For their part, Bahraini papers considered Iraq's conditional acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No. 660 calling for withdrawal a new development in the Iraqi position brought about by the new situation and the massive damage caused to the Iraqi military machine. AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that this is the first time for the Iraqi leadership to openly declare openly its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait, for in the past that leadership either used to refuse even to discuss the issue of Kuwait, or made a discussion of that topic conditional on the solution of all the regional problems and other matters.

The newspaper says that this development is clear evidence that the Iraqi leadership has begun to recognize the fact that it will have no option in the end other than withdrawal from Kuwait. The statement proves that the Iraqi leadership has abandoned its earlier illusions with regard to its ability to inflict defeat on the allied troops and keep Kuwait at the same time.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that the Iraqi citizen expresses the hope that the coming few days, the Iraqi leadership will change its position and declare a full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, AL-AYYAM says that the Iraqi statement was a repetition of older statements rejected by the international community and superseded by modern political standards.

AL-AYYAM says that the one and only leader of Baghdad is still making his decisions not according to the interests of the Iraqi people or the Arab nation, but in order to inflate his personal image at the expense of the Arab people in Iraq.

The weekly magazine AL-ADWA' says that the recent Iraqi announcement was not made in a vacuum, but was the outcome of a new situation, as signs of a coalition victory were felt, a victory that would force Saddam to evacuate from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government to this country. The paper notes that the alliance countries have recently announced the approach of the ground war and begun actual preparations for it.

Referring to the coalition countries' rejection of the Iraqi statement, AL-ADWA' says that time will prove to the tyrant of Baghdad that he had repeated chances to emerge with dignity from the tight spot in which he put himself, but he wasted all these chances, and that is why he no longer has anyone to listen to his yelling and thundering. [passage omitted]

In Qatar, AL-SHARQ says that the Iraqi statement has come as a disappointment, for it contained old conditions that were rejected in the past and new ones that cannot be accepted. The statement reads as if it were a declaration of surrender by the coalition forces, a declaration written by the Iraqi regime as if it were the triumphant side that imposed its conditions on those it had conquered.

AL-SHARQ considers the statement by the Iraqi Revolution Council "new evidence of the arrogance and conceit of the defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn." The paper says that Saddam yesterday produced further evidence of his deviousness and guile.

The paper says that Saddam Husayn's objective is to absorb the anger of the Iraqi people, who have understood the truth about the "shelter" in which scores of innocent Iraqi civilians died when the tyrant's regime intentionally arranged for them to hide in a military site that was a target of shelling.

Iraqi Missile Intercepted, Destroyed in Flight

NC2202061891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Manama, 22 Feb (WAKH)—According to an official of Bahrain's Defense Force, ground defenses spotted an Iraqi missile over Bahrain at 0240 today.

Antimissile missiles intercepted the missile, destroying it in flight, the source said.

The demolition of the missile caused no casualties on the ground in Bahrain, he added.

Airline To Resume Dubayy-Tehran Flights 20 Feb

NC1402204991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Dubayy, 14 Feb (WAKH)—Emirate Airways will resume its round-trip flights between Dubayy and Tehran as of Wednesday [20 February] with two flights a week on Wednesday and Saturday. This came in a statement made by Muhammad al-Khajah, director of the Commercial Department of Emirate Airways.

In another development, an Emirate Airways official said that as of Saturday Emirate Airways will cancel the additional insurance previously imposed on the Bombay and New Delhi flights. He added that Emirate Airways will incur the additional insurance created by these flights.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Welcomes Soviet Initiative

NC2102211991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has welcomed the Soviet initiative and said Iraq's acceptance of the initiative, which falls within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Gulf crisis, means that it has accepted those resolutions.

In a statement following the morning session of the meeting of the Islamic summit bureau committee and the Islamic Conference Organization ministerial committee, the Kuwaiti minister said the meeting will reaffirm the resolutions issued by the previous Islamic conferences on the Gulf crisis, which denounced the aggression. In this regard, he referred to the two meetings held in Cairo in August 1990 and in New York in October 1990 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

The Kuwaiti minister added that the principal change [al-taghyir al-ra'isi] in Iraq is the responsibility of the people of Iraq, and it is not our cause if Saddam leaves or not.

Answering a question on whether or not there will be relations between Iraq and Kuwait in the future after the end of Iraqi occupation, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that if the regime in Iraq is replaced, there will be no problem between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples.

Paper Urges Rapid Iraqi Response to Soviet Plan

PM2002140491 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18 Feb 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Meaning of the Soviet Move"]

[Text] Following the failure of the Iranian initiative to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to seek peace and end the current war in the Gulf so the Iraqi people and the region's resources are spared destruction, the Soviet Union has begun to move again in an attempt to persuade the Iraqi president to respond to the international will. The Soviet move actually is not entirely isolated from certain domestic factors, factors which result from mounting pressure exerted by the right wing and the military wing in the Soviet hierarchy to change the Soviet position on the Gulf war. This pressure seeks to restrict Gorbachev's domestic policy and external moves toward a rapprochement with the West. Both these wings feel this situation has led to internal divisions and damaged the Soviet Union's image abroad. The Soviet initiative has now started with Primakov's visit to Baghdad and Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Moscow with a view to establishing a formula that provides an honorable way out for Saddam Husayn that will enable him to pledge to withdraw from Kuwait. But there are signs that the chances of success of the new Soviet move are slim, since Moscow, which adheres to the Security Council resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, needs an immediate and a clear commitment to withdraw before it can demand a cessation of the present war in the Gulf.

We hope that the Iraqi leaders will respond to the new Soviet move immediately, because any delay will only freeze the Soviet move, which will then have achieved its main purpose of satisfying both wings; namely, the right wing and the military wing in the Soviet hierarchy.

UN Representative Condemns Saddam's Speech

LD2102230491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti permanent representative to the United Nations, Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, has said that the leader of the Iraqi regime's speech earlier today has shown again his complete defiance of the international will by repeating the Iraqi claims on Kuwait.

He added: The speech itself is sufficient to show the world the character of the Iraqi leadership.

Abu-al-Hasan said he disagrees with those who say that the speech was merely for local consumption. He said that the head of the Iraqi regime uses the same language for addressing both his people and the international community. He predicted that the foreign minister of the Iraqi regime will repeat the same words in his meetings with the Soviets in Moscow later today. He added: The foreign minister of the Iraqi regime is carrying to Moscow the same unacceptable conditions which were included in the so-called withdrawal offer last Friday [15 February].

He described the head of the Iraqi regime's last speech as an invitation to destroy what remains of his Armed Forces and the Iraqi economy by defying the UN Security Council's resolutions.

Abu-al-Hasan expressed his hopes that the ground war, which has now become very close, will be very brief. He added that capturing 500 Iraqi soldiers yesterday indicates the collapse of the Iraqi Armed Forces' morale.

Minister Views Regional Talks, Postwar Aims

PM2202103991 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Feb 91 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Nawwaf al-Shammari; date and place not given—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text][al-Shammari] How do you evaluate the work of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, Egypt, and Syria?

[Al-Sabah] We studied the post-liberation phase in the security and economic fields and agreed on the bases that will ensure Kuwait's national security, which is an indivisible part of pan-Arab security. We also agreed on the need to reinvigorate the role of the Arab League and on the importance of taking a major step toward economic and social development.

This meeting was held on the basis of a recommendation made by the GCC summit in Doha. It was decided at that summit that there should be cooperation between the GCC and the countries which have stood by justice and supported the Gulf states.

In accordance with that decision, Saudi Arabia was empowered to reach an agreement with Egypt and Syria on a working paper for this cooperation. That paper was prepared, reviewed, and approved by all the states, including Egypt and Syria.

The meeting issued a final statement. This meeting will now be followed by another, on 5 March in Syria, to further examine the working paper before submitting it to the heads of state for endorsement.

[Al-Shammari] How do you view the security system for the Gulf region after the liberation of Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] Everyone is concerned about the security of the Gulf. But we must understand that no one can enforce any specific security formula on the Gulf states. They know what they want. But we also say that the Gulf states cannot be left alone, in view of their Arab and international links.

Thus, proceeding from this belief, a security committee was set up by the Doha summit under the chairmanship of Sultan Qabus of Oman. This committee, in which all the GCC countries are represented, will submit its findings in the very near future, God willing.

The committee believes that the security of the Gulf is part of the security of the Arab World. This is the principle which we will uphold in the future.

[Al-Shammari] How does our lawful government view the world's unanimous rejection of the Iraqi statement?

[Al-Sabah] I regret to say that, although people were pleased at first when the statement came out, when they heard the full statement they realized that Iraq was not approving Resolution 660 but had decided to dispose of it. Iraq also set new conditions which did not exist before.

Therefore, all I can say is that everything that came in the Iraqi statement is to be regarded as a game by which the Iraqi regime wants to delay the offensive and split the ranks of world unanimity.

This game, which was intended to complicate, delay, and hamper the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, has been exposed. The Iraqi statement does not contain any new ideas. It also conflicts with the international will and unanimity which have demanded right from the beginning of the criminal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that Iraq implement the Security Council resolutions.

This explains the world's rejection of the Iraqi statement. The world has no confidence whatsoever in the Iraqi regime and its statements. The Iraqi regime does not abide by its pledges and promises. It goes back on them whenever it suits it.

Furthermore, the Iraqi statement is part of the trickery and deception it has pursued since its invasion of Kuwait. But, praise God, it has not succeeded in any of its tricks, because its ambitions and deception are clear to everyone. That is why the Iraqi regime has failed in all its tricks to split the world unanimity against him.

[Al-Shammar] It has been reiterated that an Islamic initiative will come out of the Islamic foreign ministers conference to be held in Cairo. How likely is that?

[Al-Sabah] There is no initiative. I believe that we have exhausted all initiatives. There were several initiatives before 15 January. There was not a single leader in the Arab and Islamic nations or in the world at large who did not address an appeal to the leader of the Iraqi regime to withdraw from Kuwait.

While we are pained and distressed by the suffering of our people in Kuwait, we are also pained and distressed by the suffering of the Iraqi people, bled to death by their leader before and since the war. He has not given a single thought to the fate of the whole of Iraq.

Our people in our occupied homeland have gone through a horrendous experience. The evidence will be produced by the Human Rights Commission during its current meeting in Geneva. We pray to God Almighty to preserve our people in our homeland. We will return very soon. We tell them: Be patient, we will be reunited soon.

[Al-Shammari] Do you expect the Soviet efforts to succeed, and what is your comment on Tariq 'Aziz' talks in Moscow?

[Al-Sabah] I was in Moscow only a few days ago. I met with the Soviet foreign minister and also with President Gorbachev. I would like to affirm here that the Soviet Union will not change its position or opinion. The USSR adheres to the Security Council resolutions regarding complete, unconditional withdrawal and the return of the lawful government. This was affirmed to me by President Gorbachev.

I believe, therefore, that the Iraqi foreign minister's visit will not deceive the USSR. At the same time, we are confident that the USSR is going along with international unanimity. The USSR will not split the international ranks, because as far as it is concerned this is a matter of principle.

[Al-Shammari] What is your reply to those who cast doubt on the honorable position of Egypt?

[Al-Sabah] No one must suspect any person or quarter concerning the great and honorable role played by Egypt—president, government, and people—in sponsoring our cause. We are greatly indebted to Egypt.

Whoever casts any doubt on Egypt's position will be regarded as a deviant from the Egyptian people, the Kuwaiti people, and all the peoples who have stood by justice.

[Al-Shammari] Do you believe that Iran will continue in its neutrality regarding the war for the liberation of Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] The information we have and the contacts we have made with our brother officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran make us believe that Iran is neutral and that it will not deviate from this position.

[Al-Shammari] What do you say to those who cast doubt on the national unity of which we are so proud?

[Al-Sabah] I regret to say that there are people who cast doubt on our national unity and the pledges which were made by the Kuwaiti Government at the popular conference in Jeddah. In my opinion, these anomalous voices are of no consequence.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister has made statements in which he reasserted the government's pledge to implement the resolutions of the popular conference, although we feel that this reassertion is not necessary. The original commitment was sufficient. But his highness wanted some people to hear once again the commitment made and announced by his highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent concerning the popular conference resolutions.

[Al-Shammari] How do you view the GCC countries' relationship with Iraq after the war to liberate Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] The process of restoring mutual trust between the GCC peoples and Iraq will take years. But we have always said that, if the leadership changes, the situation could change. We do not want a split in the Arab World. We have always been interested in the unity of the Arab peoples.

Still, we must admit that what has taken place will not be easy to patch up quickly.

Envoy in PRC Decries Arabs' Lack of Conscience

LD1302110291 London KUNA in Arabic 0926 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Beijing, 13 Feb (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti ambassador to China, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bayjan, asked: Where is the Arab conscience regarding the inhuman practices and killing of innocent people in Kuwait by Iraq?

In a statement to KUNA today he said that the Kuwaitis are being subjected to siege and starvation. Iraqi soldiers are surrounding them from all sides. They have placed tanks between houses, on the streets, they have planted mines on the roads, they are pillaging houses in search of food and water. The ambassador said that the steadfast Kuwaiti people are being deprived of medical treatment and their children are being deprived of food. Where are the Arab states? They have forgotten Kuwait and are calling for the defense of Iraq.

The Kuwaiti ambassador asked: "Was it the Kuwaitis who attacked Iraq? Do they wage war on Iraq, and are they occupying Baghdad? Was it the Kuwaitis who refused a peaceful solution if Iraq withdraws? It was the Iraqis, who are being subjected to bombing, who chose this path. They have not raised the voice of discontent against their government, which is responsible for them and is still signing the praise of imminent victory. As for the Kuwaitis who are suffering occupation, they did not choose the invasion and destruction of their country. Where is the Arab conscience about Iraq's plunder of Kuwait's resources. He asked: "Are the Kuwaitis not Arabs, or has the Arab conscience ceased to exist regarding the ordeal of the Kuwaitis?"

Al-Bayjan added: "Saddam Husayn cares only about himself. He thinks that through the mass media he can win the war and conceal the bitter truth. He complains about the fate of civilians in Baghdad while he sends his missiles to deliberately hit civilians in Riyadh. Are not the Saudis Arabs and civilians? Are the Iraqi missiles that hit Riyadh's schools not Arab missiles? Or is there a hidden bias about the people of the Gulf by those who remain silent on the predicament of the Kuwaitis, Saudis, and other people of the Gulf?"

Premier Receives Support Message From Sweden

LD1902114991 London KUNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 19 Feb (KUNA)—His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, has received a message from His Excellency Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish prime minister, in which he stressed the sympathy of the Swedish Government with the Kuwaiti people and the need for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces of occupation from all Kuwaiti territories.

The Swedish prime minister also expressed the wish of Swedish companies and institutions to contribute toward rebuilding and reconstructing Kuwait following its liberation.

Amir Receives Moroccan King's Envoy

LD1502081191 Riyadh SPA in English 0343 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, Feb 14 [date as received], SPA—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait received here today Ahmad Bin Souda, the advisor of King Hassan of Morocco and the meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. During the meeting, the Moroccan envoy delivered to Shaykh Jabir a message from the Moroccan monarch.

UNESCO Director Rebuked For Gulf Remarks

LD1202223391 London KUNA in Arabic 1722 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Paris, 12 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwait's permanent delegate to UNESCO, Faysal al-Salim, today called on the organization's director general to issue an appeal for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Dr. al-Salim was commenting on an appeal on the Gulf war made by the director general, Frederico Mayor, in which he said that the military operations currently taking place there "have caused a great devastation and led to a large number of casualties in Iraq, Kuwait, and Israel, which does not take part in the war."

In his message to the director general, the Kuwaiti delegate said that the war "started on August 2 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and annexed it. Therefore, your announcement comes a little too late." He added that Mayor's announcement does not include an appeal for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, which is the basic demand of the UN Security Council if we want to go ahead with other peace moves. The Kuwaiti delegate also criticized the UNESCO director general because this was the first statement he had issued, in which he referred to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and its annexation, despite the fact that six months have passed since the Iraqi tanks entered Kuwait. He said that Kuwait was not involved in the fighting [as received], but it was "a victim of fighting, occupation, and destruction." He added: "Moreover, linking Kuwait's destruction with the rights of the Palestinians is totally unrealistic." He then stresseed: Nobody can precede the Kuwaitis when it comes to the Palestinian issue." Mayor had said in an announcement that the extent of the current military confrontation in the Gulf seriously threatened the lives and security of all the peoples of the region, including the Palestinian people. The Kuwaiti delegate also indicated that the UNESCO general director had not issued any statement on the destruction of cultural property in Kuwait resulting from Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

The organization's Executive Council has issued a resolution condemning Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the destruction of its cultural, educational, and scientific institutions.

Water Shortages, Blackouts Reported in Kuwait

NC2002192491 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Ruwayshid, 20 Feb (AFP)—Several Kuwaiti frontline towns are for the first time suffering from power cuts and water shortages as allied attacks on Iraqi positions increase, travelers from the Iraqi-occupied emirate said Wednesday.

Mas'ud Shukri, a 21-year-old Jordanian, said that al-Ahmadi, a town where a major oil terminal is located, was without water and electricity since Saturday for the first time since January 17.

Mr. Shukri, who left al-Ahmadi on Monday, told reporters in this Jordanian border town with Iraq that telephone links were also being disrupted.

"First there was no gas, then the electricity went off. By then bakers would only sell us dough and it was up to us to bake the bread," he said.

Ra'id, a 19-year-old who declined to give his family name, said the town of Abraq Khitan has also suffered from power blackouts and water shortages since Saturday.

Al-Ahmadi and Abraq Khitan are located 30 kilometers (18 miles) and 50 kilometers (31 miles) respectively south of Kuwait City.

Travelers from the Kuwaiti towns of al-Farwaniyah and Nagrah, also located south of Kuwait City but closer to the capital, said water and electricity were functioning normally there.

But all the travelers agreed that conditions had greatly deteriorated in the occupied emirate, which has been rocked by near daily allied air strikes against Iraqi positions.

Mr. Shukri said that from his home in the town of al-Ahmadi he could see the huge blaze that had been ravaging the al-Ahmadi oil terminal for the past two weeks.

"When the first air raids began, residents began fleeing the town's beachfront areas, seeking refuge inland," he said.

"There were no shelters as such to run to, so the people took refuge in basements and then they decided to stay home after seeing that the raids were targeting oil installations mainly.

"The only damage we had at home were broken glass caused by the explosions," he said.

According to Ra'id, military targets were hit in Abraq Khitan but early this month the al-Nasr military club located in a residential quarter was also bombed.

"A four-storey building was destroyed and all the residents were killed," he said, adding that he felt the impact of the explosion 70 meters (yards) away in his house.

Ahmad, a 50-year-old father of six, said that after a month of sleepless nights he decided it was time to pack his bags.

"I couldn't take it any more," he said.

People Urged To Unite for Postwar Reconstruction

PM1502144691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[Yusuf Muhammad al-Sumayt article: "How Will We Return?!"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] With the approach of liberation, politicians are getting ready for and excited about the new phase of political action in the homeland. Some have appointed themselves as guardians of the Kuwaiti people, and others have looked further ahead and decided that national unity should be the strong shield against any tendency or group seeking to dominate public opinion and to reap all the benefits, whether political or social. Yet others have looked around and found that a new Kuwaiti spirit has emerged in our occupied homeland, with a new concept stemming from the actual situation, the suffering, and the new patriotism which responds to reason and reality. These people believe that trading in old, obsolete policies in the new political marketplace will only wear down and eliminate them. These people feel that the new national current and the new Kuwaiti home must be made of a new fabric woven by the willpower of the entire Kuwaiti people. In his speech at the Jeddah conference in October 1990, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister, was frank and clear in his assertion that democracy will be bolstered under the 1962 constitution and that the people's participation will be enhanced after victory and the withdrawal of the Iraqi enemy forces. I strongly believe that freedom is not chaos, and order is not tyranny. In order to achieve this humane, political principle within the frameowrk of national unity and solidarity with the leadership and the legitimate authority, the one Kuwaiti team must use reason and take joint action to unify the national ranks through the Higher Consultative Council established by the Jeddah conference. The political ideas being voiced these days by certain political groups among the Kuwaitis in their present temporary residences could become a factor of confusion, destruction, and division among the sons of the one homeland by classifying citizens as progovernment, opposition, reactionary, constitutionalist, or opportunist.

These obsolete concepts are finished with, and the day of liberation is coming soon, God willing. So we are all called upon to belong to the one party—the party of Kuwait, in which all citizens will have equal rights and duties.

Democracy, people's participation, and the 1962 constitution are public demands, and nobody can claim sole responsiblity for them. The doubts being cast by some politicians have caused much surprise and debate. Patriotism cannot mean harboring ill will, once matters are open, clear, and frank. Any attempt to drag the Kuwaitis into political battles at this particular phase, disregarding the suffering of our people inside our occupied homeland will be regarded as suspect and unwise and it could have a negative and distessing impact on the image of national unity which we are trying to present and develop.

We want to return to our homeland. We also want the Kuwaitis inside the occupied homeland to believe that we are returning to our chaste land, kinfolk, homes, and busineses with a true national spirit that seeks reconstruction, not destruction; good, not evil.

Kuwaitis inside the occupied territory embody the full significance of goodness, chivalry, and sacrifice. So it behooves us to match this significance and these values. We want the new Kuwaiti citizen to forget the old delusion of judging patriotism by the intensity of his attack on, or opposition to, the government and its policies, decisions, and even intentions. There must be a new concept of national unity based on competition in building, doing good, cooperation, and treating others as equals for the sake one sublime objective; namely, the reconstruction of the homeland.

Is it permissible now, at this time when the blood of the Kuwaitis is mixing with the blood of their Saudi and other Arab brothers and with that of their foreign friends, and when human heroism and sacrifices are being recorded in defense of our cause; is it permissible at such a time to pursue false hopes and to send wrong signals to our kinfolk in Kuwait—signals about false divisions?

Is it permissible now—when the whole world supports us and right and justice are on our side and with our cause—to give expression to sickening divisive stands based on contiunued opposition and suspicion? Is it proper to prepare for the return by upholding the false doctrine and weapon of disunity?

Men must stand by their word of honor. We all recall the words of the heir apparent and prime minister, that liberation is our first and last objective and that national unity is our chief powerful weapon and path to liberation. These words express the sentiments of every honorable and devout citizen who does not yield to delusions and ill intentions. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's Mubarak Phones Fahd on Gulf Developments

LD2102190191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] We have just received the following news: King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call this evening from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the call, new Arab regional developments were reviewed and views exchanged on the course of events in the Arabian Gulf region. Views were identical regarding all the issues discussed.

Egyptian Forces Said Refusing To Attack Iraq

NC2102122891 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Feb 91 pp 1, 23

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Hafar al-Batin, Saudi Arabia—Egyptian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on a surprise visit the day before yesterday, inspected the Egyptian forces in Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia. This visit has taken place following the complaint lodged by the coalition forces, to the effect that the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia refuse to cooperate with them, fire in the air every time an Iraqi missile falls on Israel, and frankly say that they refuse to attack Iraq if the allies decide to launch the ground war.

Meanwhile, Western military intelligence reports said that the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia have refused to carry out orders to shell the Iraqi forces in Kuwait. The reports added that these forces have threatened to be disobedient and rebellious against their commanders if they are forced to carry out military tasks other than the original task assigned to them; namely, to defend the Saudi territories.

In another development, Israeli security sources revealed that immediately after he heard about his forces' position, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak threatened and intimidated these forces. He also dispatched a number of senior military officials who conveyed to these forces the Egyptian president's threats to arrest thousands of Egyptian military personnel in Saudi Arabia on the charge of disobedience and rebellion and to bring them to face military trial if they continued to refuse to participate in the ground offensive against the Iraqis.

The Israeli security sources said that the great majority of the Egyptian forces oppose this war, say that this war is Mubarak's war against Saddam Husayn, and insist on rejecting orders and on directing their arms against an Arab and Muslim soldier—the Iraqi soldier. This is especially so because it was Washington that ignited and wanted this war.

American sources said that President Mubarak would make a decision within a few hours to relieve the commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia of his post and to appoint another one, due to his statements in which he stressed that his forces in Saudi Arabia are there to defend Saudi Arabia and not to attack Iraq or Kuwait.

Egyptian military sources said that the Egyptian Armed Forces, particularly the commanders, are not pleased with President Mubarak's approval of the Americans' plans to deploy the Egyptian, Syrian, and Pakistani forces on the front line to act as a human shield to protect the Americans and their allies, as was the case in the al-Khafji battle.

It is known that 14 Egyptian officers and soldiers have been killed in Saudi Arabia since the beginning of the war, including an officer with the rank of staff colonel.

Military Communique on War Actions, Iraqi POW's

LD2102192791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 35 issued by the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations Command in Riyadh on 21 February, read by Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an, joint forces spokesman—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; God's victory is nigh.

Military Communique No. 35 issued by the Command of the Joint Forces and the Theater of Operations in Riyadh on the 36th day of Operation Desert Storm, 21 February 1991. At exactly 0230 today, the aggressor fired two FROG missiles, one of which fell close to a unit of Senegalese troops causing various injuries to eight members of the unit and damaging one vehicle. The second missile fell in a deserted area.

The joint forces are still carrying out their sorties on the targets given to them on the theater of operations. These sorties were divided as follows: Saudi Royal Air Force 173 sorties in the past 24 hours, and 5,773 sorties since the start of Operation Desert Storm; the joint forces 2,400 sorties in the past 24 hours, and 88,000 sorties since the start of Operation Desert Storm.

Pursuant to the information given in Communique No. 34 issued yesterday regarding the reconnaissance operation carried out by a unit of the U.S. ground forces and the capture of a group of Iraqi soldiers, we have this update on the results of this operation: 402 assailants were taken prisoner, and between 13 and 15 posts were destroyed.

The U.S. forces last night lost an OH-58 helicopter and its pilots were killed when it was carrying out a reconnaissance flight along with other aircraft.

At exactly 0700 today, a U.S. Army unit took four soldiers of the assailant prisoner, two of whom had the rank of lieutenant. It has become apparent that the aggressors were trying to survey the area to adjust their mortar fire.

At exactly 1010 yesterday morning, a division of the U.S. Army carried out a reconnaissance mission with helicopters. As a result, seven assailants were taken prisoner and there were no injuries among this U.S. division.

Another division of the U.S. Army also carried out a reconnaissance mission with helicopters. This division managed to shell positions of the assailant. As a result, three radars, five antiaircraft batteries, and two armored vehicles were destroyed.

At about 1315 yesterday a group of U.S. infantry soldiers carried out another reconnaissance mission in the theater of operations. As a result a clash occurred with an infantry batallion of the assailant forces. The results of this clash were as follows: seven members of the assailant were taken prisoner, five tanks were destroyed, and 20 artillery pieces and personnel carriers were also destroyed. The losses sustained by the friendly forces were as follows: one killed, seven others sustained various injuries,and two Bradley vehicles and an antiaircraft gun were damaged.

The total number of prisoners taken yesterday is thus 420 soldiers, including officers.

At exactly 1706 today, the assailant fired two Scud missiles toward Hafar al-Batin. They were intercepted and destroyed. Parts of the missiles fell in an uninhabited area. We have not received any reports of casualties or damage. [passage omitted]

Kingdom Forces Cross North Border Toward Iraqis

LD2102170791 London KUNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (KUNA)—The Saudi spokesman, Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an, said here today that groups of the joint forces have crossed the Saudi borders toward Iraqi positions.

He pointed out that the Saudi forces this morning crossed the northern borders of Saudi Arabia.

Ship Rocket Hits Iraqi Vessel in Northern Gulf

LD2102215391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2053 GMT 21 Feb 91

[From the "Kuwait Message"]

[Text] Our Navy, within the joint forces, is participating in Operation Desert Storm. A Kuwaiti warship was able yesterday morning to score a rocket hit on an Iraqi vessel in the northern Arabian Gulf.

It is known that the Kuwaiti Navy is carrying out reconnaissance patrols in the northern sector of the Arabian Gulf and is playing an important role in monitoring the movements of the Iraqi naval units in this region.

Iraqis Fire Two Scuds on Hafar al-Batin

LD2102163191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1612 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—A military spokesman for the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations Command announced that at 1715 [1415 GMT] today, the Iraqi aggressor fired two Scud missiles toward Hafar al-Batin. Our air defense confronted them and blew up one of them in the air using Patriot missiles. The second exploded on its own in the air before we started to deal with it.

Ministers Comment on Foreign Bank Borrowing

LD1702202791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, has commented on reports by some Western papers and news agencies about the Saudi loan. He told SPA that some of the reports had been objective and fair; however, other reports did not tackle the subject from its correct technical aspects. The fact is that world financial circles know that there is nothing unusual for a state, public, or private financial institution to resort to the financial markets to respond to a need of a brief and temporary nature which requires the use of additional means for a certain period of time. Rather, this indicates the existence of confidence in the financial position [of Saudi Arabia] and the availability of resources. It is this very fact that has made world banks deal with these arrangements in an excellent manner because of their knowledge of the strength of the Saudi financial position and their awareness of the country's capability in the middle and long term, thanks to the abundance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of natural resources and financial assets which cannot be affected by short-term considerations, he stated.

Editorial Questions Soviet Peace Initiative

LD2102120991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-MADINAH editorializes today on "comments and speculations about the text of the Soviet initiative and the shuttle travels of the Iraqi foreign ministers carrying views from here and there about the USSR's desire to find a way out for the Iraqi regime."

The paper adds that whether the initiative succeeds or not, after some amendment and retouching there are two [as received] things that interest us with respect to this initiative.

First, why is this guarantee being offered today and so persistently, and what sort of a guarantee is it? Have they forgotten all that the Iraqi regime has done? It asks what guarantee can provide for the continuation of a murdering regime whose black history is stained with all sorts of filthy crimes, liquidations, assaults on honor and sanctities, and confiscation of the most basic human rights, freedom, and life.

AL-MADINAH warns against guaranteeing the life of an adventurer who has confiscated the independence of a nation and the freedom of a people and erased from existence a state and kept the world begging for him to resort to reason and withdaw from Kuwait or at least promise to withdraw at a specific date.

The paper asks: "Where was that guarantee when the brothers in Kuwait were exposed to the most abominable acts of torture, murder, rape, and the hanging of corpses in the squares of Kuwait? Where were those advocating the guarantee to save Saddam's head, first from God's justice, and second from historic justice? Where are they after all that from the justice of God alone?" [sentence as received]

Radio Assails 'Dwarves' Supporting Saddam

LD1402223291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] The campaign by certain twisted media departments in Arab capitals continues. These departments' decisions are dictated by hatred for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia because the Kingdom has more than others. Saudi Arabia has offered help to others, but that help has been met with ingratitude. The spiteful who have exposed their repulsive faces by siding with the tyrant of Baghdad and by supporting his invasion of Kuwait—these dwarves who continue to live by begging in order to secure their survival, when they attack the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with obscene language. They not only express the deep hatred in their sick hearts, but also confirm the truth about the vulgarity of their souls and their bad manners.

To repay favors with ingratitude is a characteristic of the despicable. Otherwise, what is the meaning behind the actions of certain Arab capitals which used to be, continue and shall remain able to secure the food of their peoples only by begging and knocking on doors to ask for charity—charity which the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always provided without making these men feel the humiliation of begging? Here they are today, biting the hands which extended good to them to help them out of the well of destitution.

It is, however, God's mercy and generosity, that the upper hands enjoy the protection of God. As to the despicable, who are ungrateful, they shall never succeed. Here they are—when it has been confirmed to them that their master in Baghdad is living the bitterness of defeat before himself and before his people—wailing and weeping like widows before the whole world. These twisted and broken states, however, are trying with all their weakness and helplessness to attack with obscene language those who have done them favors, once by trying to harm the steadfastness of the honest in confronting evil, and once more by supporting the tyrant of Baghdad, by smuggling weapons to him and attempting to provide hideouts for his missiles on their soil, thus confirming how malicious they are and how low they can stoop. Then these dwarfs speak about the dangers threatening the region and the danger to the Arab presence, forgetting that they have encouraged the tyrant of

Baghdad and urged him to continue on the road to destroying himself, his people and country [passage indistinct]

Paper Criticizes King Husayn, PLO Stances

PM1502122691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Feb 91 p 15

[Turki al-Dawsari article: "PLO's Stance Has Destroyed Its Arab Credibility"]

[Excerpts] It is difficult here to find a convincing justification for King Husayn's entirely unexpected position on the Gulf crisis. Especially his stance toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, despite the excellent care and attention that they have given him ever since his youth.

It is also very difficult to explain the tenor of King Husayn's statement, in which he pointed out that he neither supports nor opposes Iraq's use of missiles against Israel. This means that King Husayn is neutral with regard to President Saddam Husayn's position toward Israel, whereas he has supported, and still supports, Saddam's position and his invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait. So where are the slogans and where is the constant concern for the Arab nation's interests and unity—the slogans which we hear him repeatimg with many Arab leaders and thinkers?

We could perhaps overlook all this, even though we cannot find a convincing explanation for it. But we face a huge problem that is difficult to overcome—namely, finding the reasons for the confusing position of the PLO chairman and those in his circle on the Gulf crisis, or a convincing justification for it.

The complete support and unprecedented enthusiasm for President Saddam Husayn in his brutal aggression against the State of Kuwait and then for his defiance of all the international and Arab resolutions on that invasion, reflects not only serious shortcomings in the human and moral standards of some leaders in our Arab circles—and, first and foremost, of Mr. 'Arafat—but also an absolute ignorance of the realities of political, economic, and military matters at both Arab and international levels.

It is this ignorance and this naive way of dealing with our Arab and Islamic nation's crucial issues that lost us Palestine at the beginning of the end in the winter of 1947-48 and before, and then our inability to recover it or to reach a satisfactory solution that grants its sons their legitimate demands.

The stances of the PLO represented by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and its other leaders on the issue of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, its absolute support for President Saddam Husayn in his intransigent positions on the issue, and the latter's defiance of the other Arab states—and, first and foremost, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which adopted a loyal stance toward him during his war with the Muslim sister, Iran—and also of the international community: All these reckless attitudes represent a costly adventure for our Arab nation and the future of the Palestinian cause, especially in view of their adverse effects on that cause at the local, regional, and international levels. [passage omitted]

If Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and his followers had been equal to their historic responsibility for tackling the crucial issues concerning our Arab nation, they would have informed the Iraqi president of the need to focus his and his successors' efforts on building a state that is modern and integrated in the agricultural and economic fields—a state with a strong industrial base. This would have been done on the grounds that this foundation would enable him to build an influential capability at the regional and international level in the long term. But instead Iraq's energies are wasted on building a shaky military edifice, leaving the proud Iraqi people destitute and destroyed, to move slowly toward an unknown future for no reason except that it secures for the Iraqi president—and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, too—expectations of circumstantial victories in which he would be the sole linchpin and hero.

It would have been more appropriate for both of them to know how Germany rose up from its painful fate following World War II and how German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the great men that succeeded him managed to rebuild it as a superpower in record time.

If the Iraqi president follows the right path to build Iraq with the capabilities and huge resources available to him, in order to enable the sincere men that will succeed him to complete what he has started, the day will come when most the sons of our Arab world's states will move toward total cohesion with the state of Iraq as a major Arab, Islamic state, with all its huge resources. The example for this is what happened between the two Germanies a few months ago.

Iraqi Grief Over Shelter Bombing Questioned

LD1502100391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-BILAD said in its leading article today: When the Iraqi forces stormed Kuwait after midnight on 2 August, without any justification save aggression and the occupation of a sovereign and an independent state, we did not hear any of the pro-Iraq regimes uttering any condemnation of the invasion—which is the least any responsible country should have done under the circumstances. When the Iraqi forces began to defile the honor and openly murder and execute Kuwaitis in the streets, storm peaceful houses, kill sons before the eyes of their fathers, and kill fathers before their sons, we did not hear any of those regimes expressing an outrage at these crimes, nor did they shed a tear as they did following the strike at a military installation in Iraq. Nobody is to blame more for hitting that installation than Saddam—the mad gambler—who has placed at this installation civilians for camoflage purposes. If by such a crime Saddam shows that he has no regard at all for his own people and pushes the civilians to a place which is a command and control center which he himself knew was being watched for the past two weeks, why do these people cry and convulse like this?

In conclusion, the paper asked: Was the Kuwaiti blood free for all when Saddam's soldiers killed scores of hundreds of Kuwaiti children, women, and aged and others were thrown in the desert to die from hunger, thirst and under the blazing sun?

Editorial Warns Iraqi Peace Proposals 'Doomed'

LD1602103291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0045 GMT 16 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-JAZIRAH writes under the headline "A Very Late Decision": What Saddam Husayn should have done some six and a half months ago he has just done by accepting UN Resolution 660, which the Security Council adopted on 2 August 1990, just hours after Saddam Husayn's forces occupied the state of Kuwait. At that time it was possible for Saddam to withdraw his forces from Kuwait without sustaining the losses and destruction which he has caused for Iraq and its military capability and his own political and ideological position. The approval by the ruling council in Iraq of UN Resolution 660, which stipulates the total and unconditional withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government of the state of Kuwait led by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has come very late. Saddam's stubbornness and arrogance have led to the transformation of the Iraqi military force into a sideline force after having received the most violent of strikes and showed its incapability to stand up to the international forces. The fact that the ruler of Iraq has not understood the new international situation and the seriousness and insistence of the international legitimacy to confront the adventures of dictators like Saddam Husayn will inevitably harm Saddam's own political position, not only at the international and regional level but also at Iraqi level. Saddam Husayn, who himself poured the poison which he was compelled to swallow by accepting submission to the international will, will not find an easy position inside Iraq, whose sons have not been satisfied with the aggressive adventures of Saddam Husayn, which always end in withdrawal after having inflicted on his own country losses that go beyond the military structure and hit the economic and the infrastructure, such as roads, communications, etc. Although the ruler of Iraq tried to cover up his capitulationist withdrawal and after having lost face by placing conditions on his withdrawal, his attempt is doomed too because the international community will never accept a conditional withdrawal by Saddam Husayn's forces. The international will insists that the ruler of Iraq should implement all of the UN Security Council's 12 resolutions with a total and actual withdrawal of his aggressive forces from Kuwait.

Editorial Rejects 'Daydreaming' on Peace

LD1602104191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0045 GMT 16 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-BILAD writes in its lead article: If the leader of the Iraqi regime is serious in what he is saying, he should begin by taking actual and tangible steps to implement the resolution on the withdrawal from Kuwait. We believe that confining this issue within the framework of a statement—without implementation—is nothing but another maneuver or a conspiracy by Saddam that aims at continuing his occupation of the state of Kuwait and his threats against the states of the region—the conspiracies which no longer deceive anybody and which will be aborted as similar conspiracies were aborted in the past. Yes, we favor peace; we favor everything that makes the region, especially the fraternal Iraqi people, avoid the calamities of war. Despite all that has happened, we will work for pushing the peace efforts forward. The ball is in Saddam's court. He himself kindled the war. By withdrawing from Kuwait, he can put an end to the causes of the war so that the region can lay down the foundation of peace. There is no ambiguity or difficulty in the issue except inasfar as the obstacles which the Iraqi regime is trying to create. We hope the Iraqi regime's leader, Saddam Husayn, has at last realized the extent of the damage which his country and the Arab issues have sustained as a result of his stubborn stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis. We hope this will be a prelude for another attempt to save what can be salvaged following the dangerous escalation of the war at the fronts and following the beginning of the countdown of the land war with all the new and horrible losses this war entails as far as Iraq and the Iraqi people are concerned. The entire issue is hinged on a decision by the Iraqi regime to begin an actual and immediate, as well as unconditional, withdrawal from Kuwait. Such a decision will remove all doubt from Iraqi statements. The world is not prepared to build castles in the sky or to indulge in daydreaming, especially because the path of peace requires caution and patience.

Paper Views Baghdad 'Countdown' to Peace Deadline

LD2002174391 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0145 GMT 20 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-RIYADH said in an article headlined "Baghdad and the Critical Last Few Moments of the Countdown": The next hours may be decisive because the deadline Gorbachev gave to 'Aziz to reply to the Soviet Government's proposals does not give any (?insight on maneuver) especially if military preparations are faster than diplomatic action. Perhaps the mind translates the Iraqi reply as acceptable because the people of Iraq are not the leadership. They pay a high price for its existence. Saddam Husayn has put them on the brink of a dangerous end.

The possibility that Iraq will agree on the points put forward by the Soviets is unlikely. This is another reason why it is impossible to accept forthcoming solutions. The military choice has become a big and destructive mission. [passage omitted]

Press Reviews War Developments

LD2002183991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 20 Feb (SPA)—The Saudi papers issued today highlighted the following headlines:

The custodian of the two holy mosques and his highness the crown prince receive the Islamic scholars and men of literature and thought from inside and outside the Kingdom who are participating in the Jihad Festival.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said in a comprehensive speech: The Jihad festival was not called for with the aim to offend or incriminate anyone, but the main goal from it is that the leading thinkers, science students, and thinkers as well as those aware of things discuss the situation we are in at present.

His highness the second deputy premier receives the Senegalese defense minister.

The jihad festival continues its activities.

His Highness Prince Fahd Bin-Salman: "Our country is safe and tranquil (thanks to) its sons' vigilance."

After receiving Gorbachev's plan, Bush says: No negotiations and no concessions to the Iraqi regime.

The Joint Forces continue their raids against Iraqi military targets.

Paris: The military operations continue until Iraq's withdrawal.

The foreign ministers of the European Community hold meetings in Luxembourg.

Gorbachev's adviser: Saddam cannot turn defeat into victory.

Clashes between the men and officers of the Iraqi regime.

Saddam will come out defeated militarily, politically, and psychologically.

The papers were interested, in their commentaries, in the recent developments in the region in the form of diplomatic initiatives and preparations for the liberation of Kuwait from the occupation of the forces of the Iraqi regime which is trying desperately to extricate itself from the dilemma which it has put itself in.

AL-YAWM said the mere announcement of the Iraqi regime's willingness to withdraw from the State of Kuwait, according to the Revolution Command Council statement, confirms without any doubt that he has began to stagger under the effect of the air strikes still being dealt by the joint forces' aircraft with infinite precision to his military targets.

The paper added that, despite his staggering and sensing of his near end, he is still behaving with arrogance beyond any description. Thus he linked his acceptance of implementing Security Council Resolution 660—which openly calls for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait unconditionally and for the return of the legitimate government—with conditions.

The paper concluded that, because the Iraqi statement was born lame, it was rejected by the entire international community which decided to carry on the military operations until victory is achieved for the allied forces and the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait unconditionally, and the return of usurped right to its owners. The paper stressed that legitimate rights cannot be negotiated or neglected nor can their owners be ignored.

The newspaper 'UKAZ writes that if the Iraqi regime believes time could be in its favor, the days have proven that time was only a lost opportunity for Iraq and more devastation and attrition to its forces and its peoples' and Army's capabilities.

The paper believes that if the Iraqi regime was seeking or hoping for a way out, and it if were really serious about retreating, then now it has the last opportunity—after all the opportunities it has already lost—to declare today and actually begin immediately and unconditionally withdrawing from the entire Kuwaiti territory.

The world, which insists and repeats its insistence that the Iraqi regime should quickly and immediately retreat, knows full well that this regime will not withdraw, after all that has befallen its country, exactly as it refused to respond to all the diplomatic efforts and military pressures that were brought to bear on it during the past six months, 'UKAZ concludes.

AL-BILAD writes that the lacklustre regimes which supported Saddam's wish to consecrate his occupation of Kuwait find themselves now in an unenviable position with the ground about to collapse under the feet of all the partners in the plot. The paper points out that due to the abominable military defeat it suffered, the Iraqi regime has begun to act in isolation of the lackeys and to try to emerge from the defeat with a false heroism, which it is trying to make itself believe to be true, and it is desperately trying to make the Iraqi people believe that it has emerged victorious.

The paper adds that Saddam seems to see as a victory the smuggling of Iraqi aircraft to Iran, the hiding in underground shelters, the destruction of half of its military hardware, the destruction of all its strategic military industries, the capturing of many Iraqi soldiers as POW's, and the defection of many others.

The paper affirms that the ending of the crisis and Iraq's inevitable withdrawal will only be the end of the first act of the bloody play which Saddam's comic trio [as received] has performed. The more thrilling acts, hoever, are still to come when the heroes will fall and roles will change.

In its editorial AL-JAZIRAH said, regarding military operations to liberate Kuwait, that "we are not warmongers," as was stated by King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, in his speech to the holy war symposium organized by Islamic Imam Muhammad Al Sa'ud University in Riyadh.

The paper stressed, however, that military operations remain at the moment the only choice that will bring about the desired peace, especially because the one who created this situation, and still maintains it, is a tyrant whose disturbed mind links the meaning of peace to the logic of killing, scenes of fire, blood, and destruction even if the victims of these acts are his people whom he rules with an iron fist.

The paper indicated that the presence of such a tyrant, who uses his people and squanders the potential of his country and army to satisfy his hostile ambitions, makes it unceasingly futile to establish peace with him. Such a peace cannot be accepted by those who shoulder the responsibility of leadership and whose decisions affect the destiny of their countries and peoples. The paper ended its editorial by saying that: "The likes of Saddam, wherever they may be in the world, have made peace an unattainable quest."

AL-RIYADH comments editorially on the continuing military operations for the liberation of Kuwait and the expected start of the land battle as well as on the current diplomatic attempts to persuade the Baghdad ruling regime to withdraw immediately, unconditionally, and completely from Kuwait.

In this regard, the paper writes: "The short road is open and between the implementation and rejection of the international resolutions, the land battle will be the result and will determine what follows." [as received] The paper affirms the strength, solidity, and cohesion of the international unanimity and its understanding of the present and future international situation and the need to face up to the arrogance and obduracy of the dictatorial Iraqi regime.

RIYADH DAILY warns the Iraqi regime against continuing with its stubborn stand and its rejection of all peace efforts. It writes: "At a time when the joint forces are preparing themselves to push into Kuwait, little time has remained for Saddam to rethink his attitude." A basic and decisive change in his attitude could prevent a grave tragedy and save his nation of further devastation, the paper says. It mocks Saddam Husayn's persistence in the illusion of his ability to achieve victory, saying that he seems unable to see the facts because the liberation of Kuwait in the coming weeks, with God's will, will be a fact.

AL-MADINAH affirms editorially that the world will not accept any change or distortion of the text of UN Resolution 660. It adds that the resolution was clear and unambiguous: Withdrawal with no conditions or strings and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy to the State of Kuwait.

The paper points out that Saddam has exaggerated the meaning of invasion and aggression and dressed it in numerous garbs and false forms in his attempts at justification and blackmail, but experience has shown that he was never capable of confrontation and was only a liar hiding behind the civilians and over-protecting himself.

AL-MASA'IYAH comments editorially on the current diplomatic attempts to persuade the Iraqi regime to withdraw completely and unconditionally from Kuwait. It says the military operations will continue and will not stop except with Iraq's complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy to the State of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait.

The paper praises the declared unwavering attitude of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom toward the question of the occupation of Kuwait, an attitude which is based on Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from fraternal Kuwait in implementation of the Arab, Islamic, and UN resolutions. Concluding, the paper says: "We are awaiting the one positive development, namely, Iraq's announcement of the actual start of the unconditional withdrawal of its forces in an extensive manner from Kuwait."

AL-NADWAH said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is determined to deal with the situation from the premises of right, devine justice, and genuine humanitarian values and principles, and she will never at any time allow herself to interfere in the affairs of others, just as she will not allow others to interfere in her own affairs. The paper added that the Kingdom was and still is always ready to help her brothers in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and to offer material assistance in all forms to her brothers in the Arab and Muslim countries to enable them to face up to their economic problems and development questions. [passage omitted]

In its editorial AL-YAMAMAH magazine said the announcement of the aggressor Iraqi regime of the withdrawal from the occupied state of Kuwait was not a surprise—indicating that the entire world knows the size of the painful blows which have rained on the aggressor's army, and knows the fate awaiting it. [passage omitted]

The magazine explained that Saddam has failed to convince the world that he is the invincible hero, but, he has managed to be the failing conjurer and the untiring charlatan.

AL-YAWM said in its editorial that the rejection of the international community of the Iraqi announcement about the withdrawal from the State of Kuwait was because the announcement was born lame. [passage omitted]

'UKAZ Says Saddam Lived With 'Illusions'

LD2102134891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline, "A Lesson to All Tyrants," the newspaper 'UKAZ writes that the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait six months ago stemmed from a number of illusions. The head of the Iraqi regime imagined that he could invade and destroy with impunity from a deterring punishment, and that he could occupy and annex and expand in the lands of Kuwait, the Kingdom, and other Arab Gulf countries without any check.

He also imagined that he could maneuver and procrastinate and raise false slogans and sneak his crimes by without being punished one day for all that he has done. He also imagined that the world would keep quiet, deal leniently or accept his allegations, farces, and falsehoods.

"Saddam lived in his illusion," the paper adds, "until the moment of true confrontation came. The world adopted a firm final decision to insure the restoration of right and justice and deter the oppressor. [passage omitted]

The paper ads: "Saddam's henchmen will pay a high price for their role in the oppressive plot which went beyond their crimes inside Iraq and their invasion of Kuwait."

The world opened the door widely before the tyrant to reconsider his actions over a period of six months, thereby showing more tolerance than the Baghdad regime deserves. Yet, the Baghdad regime continues to march on the road it mapped for itself.

The paper adds: "For all this, the world is determined to achieve all its objectives and implementation of all UN resolutions concerning the liberation of Kuwait. At the same time, the world insists on setting an example for all those who flouted justice, committed excesses, and long exploited the tolerance and desire to check evil by good deeds. The time has come for Saddam Husayn to realize that his decision to invade Kuwait was a decision that carried the seeds of his ruination and end."

The paper concludes: "right will prevail and evil will be checked by force. The lesson has to be complete and just so that all those who might contemplate repeating these crimes may learn something from it."

Riyadh Paper: Liberation of Kuwait 'Near'

LD2102135391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1247 GMT 21 Feb

[Text] Riyadh, Feb. 21, SPA—A Saudi English newspaper today said it is clear from a recent statement made by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, that the liberation of Kuwait is near, one way or another.

"The allies are determined as ever before to rescue the Kuwaitis from the clutches of the Iraqi tyrant. Any ploys to escape retribution will not work. This is clear from President Bush's doubts about the Soviet peace plan, which if accepted would allow the Iraqi dictator to go scot-free," RIYADH DAILY said in its main editorial entitled, "Paying for Crimes".

A terrible future awaits Saddam Husayn. This is his due for his long, tyrannical rule.

The time has come for the Iraqi's to save themselves by getting rid of their dictator's yoke. President Bush, among others, has appealed to them to overthrow Saddam. Before it is too late they must act unitedly and decisively. They must realize that their leader would have no qualms about sacrificing them all for his personal glory, RIYADH DAILY said.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Sends Messages to Bush, Waldheim, Havel

NC2102034291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has sent written messages to U.S. President George Bush, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, and Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel. WAM [EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY] reports that the messages deal with the situation in the Gulf in light of current developments. It says that the messages, which are in reply to messages his highness recently received from these leaders, have been conveyed through diplomatic channels.

President Receives Message From Britain's Major

NC2002161991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a written message today from British Prime Minister John Major. The message concerns the current situation in the region in light of the continuation of the operation to liberate the State of Kuwait.

The message was delivered to Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs through diplomatic channels.

Yemen

Tribal Chiefs Protest To Government Over Salih

*PM2002161091 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
15 Feb 91 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Yemeni Tribal Chiefs Say: Saddam and Salih, Two Sides of the Same Coin"]

[Text] Reports from Sanaa reveal that Yemen is experiencing a great turmoil among the people and in parliamentary circles and that fierce criticisms of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's policy are growing rapidly. In a memorandum submitted to the government tribal chiefs condemned the Yemeni president's policy, which they said has caused problems for their country. They described their president and Saddam Husayn as two sides of the same bad coin. The chiefs who condemned their country's policy have been suffered many forms of harassment. They have also been suffered criticism in the official pro-government newspapers. The chiefs include Muhsin al-Surayhi, Qayid Bin-Zannaf, 'Abdallah Abu-Sur'ah, 'Ali al-Qajl, 'Ali Bin-Yahya al-Hansar, and Yahya Bin-Hammur.

The chiefs said that their country has experienced an unprecedented economic collapse since the Yemeni president sided with Saddam Husayn and as a result of the damage that he has inflicted on the long-standing relations between Sanaa and Riyadh.

Council Chairman Meets With Tunisian Ambassador

*EA1902103591 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Feb 91*

[Text] This morning at his office, Brother Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Council of Representatives, met the brother ambassador of Tunisia who delivered a letter from his Tunisian counterpart, brother Mohamed El-Beji, on bilateral relations and also on the Tunisian Council of Representatives statement on the [words indistinct] and crisis in the Gulf and the efforts to stop this destructive war being waged by the forces of the U.S.-led fascist alliance against the fraternal Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic nation. During the meeting they discussed matters affecting relations between the fraternal countries and how to develop these, particularly in the parliamentary sphere.

Council Member Views Ethiopia, Djibouti Visits

*EA2102181291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 20 Feb 91*

[Excerpts] Brother Salim Salah Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, returned to Sanaa this evening after a two-day official visit to Ethiopia and Djibouti. During the visit he conveyed two messages from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam and Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon on bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Gulf, and the situations in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency SABA', brother Salim Salah Muhammad explained that his visit to Addis Ababa and Djibouti came within the framework of efforts of our country and others to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, stop the destructive war, protect the region from the woes of destruction and devastation, and end the foreign presence in the region because of the danger to the people and resources of the region. He expressed his gratification at the results of the visit and his discussions with the Ethiopian and Djibouti presidents, pointing out that the viewpoints were close concerning the various issues discussed.

Brother Salim Salah Muhammad also explained that the discussions touched on the situation in brotherly Somalia. He emphasized the importance of consultation and coordination to help Somalia restore security and stability all over Somalia.

This afternoon brother Salim Salah Muhammad met Djibouti President Hassan Gouled in Djibouti. He conveyed to him a message from brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali Abdallah Salih on bilateral relations and issues of common interest. At the head of these discussions was the dangerous escalation of the Gulf crisis owing to the aggression being launched by the U.S.-led allied forces against the brotherly Iraqi people. They also discussed the situation in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. [passage omitted]

In a TV interview following his meeting with President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, he touched on the aims of this visit. He stressed the importance of concerted efforts in wartime, of solving the Gulf crisis peacefully, and of coordinating stands toward various issues that concern the region's states. He reaffirmed our country's stand which calls for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and its support for the efforts being exerted to reach that solution in a spirit of dialogue and negotiations. He expressed the hope that a just and permanent peace would come to the region.

Trade Union Confederation Supports Iraqi Plan

*EA1702214491 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 17 Feb 91*

[Text] The General Confederation of Trade Unions of Yemen has declared support for the Iraqi initiative in which Iraq declared its readiness to implement Security Council Resolution 660 and an honorable resolution of the Middle East crisis, primarily the solution of the Palestinian problem with the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories. In a Trade Union statement, the confederation said that Iraq's announcement of this initiative confirms Iraq's eagerness to end the battle being fought in the region and its readiness to engage in peaceful negotiations on resolving the region's problems, from a common point of view, in the framework of international legality and Arab efforts.

The confederation expressed its anxiety over the negative repercussions arising from the attitude of the United States and some of its allies to the Iraqi initiative, stressing that the initiative was essentially a response to the peace calls issued by various quarters, including the Soviet-U.S. joint statement. The confederation called on Arab and international trade unions and [word indistinct] International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and the World Federation of Trade Unions to support the initiative, the call for an end to the war in the Gulf, and the inception of negotiations, stressing the need for the workers and their trade unions to mobilize toward ensuring the victory of the call for peace over the call for war and its continuation.

Former Minister on 'Revenge' for 'Despotic Rule'

PM2002101691 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Feb 91 pp 28-29

[Article by former Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj: "A Demand That 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih Step Down From Rule in Yemen"]

[Excerpts] It is generally known that the old colonialism has cast off its military uniform and has given it to despotic rulers. [passage omitted]

Poor Yemen! It has struggled, sacrificed, and offered martyrs in order to get rid of the imamate rule, only to find itself under another despotic ruler.

Under the present military dictatorship, Yemen is experiencing the so-called flock-of-sheep-style democracy. Although the democratic dream has been dealt a serious blow since the declaration of unity, the ruler has acted in isolation from the nation and against the people's real interests.

The ruler's support for the suspect aggression against peaceful Kuwait has prompted revenge from the Yemeni people, who were mostly affected by the recklessness and irresponsible behavior of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's regime. This revenge is manifested in the repeated clashes between the people and the regime's forces. So the wolf in sheep's clothing has bared its teeth and revealed its true identity. [passage omitted]

The regime's collusion in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula crisis—which diplays a complete disregard for the rights of the Islamic nation and the whole of mankind—was the straw that broke the camel's back and eliminated the facade of democracy. If this despotic regime were truly sincere about applying democracy, would it not have consulted its citizens and wise men first, before placing this heavy burden on the nation and acting against its ethics, ideals, religion, and fundamental interests and rights? By its reckless behavior, the regime has starved innocent people and deprived them of their livelihood. It has also greatly harmed public life and its basic utilities, including health services, education, and even basic needs. We see the University of Sanaa, which is financed by Kuwait, about to suspend studies. We see the Kuwait Hospital in the Yemeni capital completely paralyzed and unable to offer treatment and medicines to patients. Aid from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates has also been suspended.

Because of this irresponsible collusion in the catastrophe that befell Kuwait, the state has become bankrupt. This is because the dictator met generosity with ingratitude, biting the very hand that fed him. He also disavowed the security, peace, and future of the entire Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf. So while the dictator is growing richer from his constant plundering of the oil, customs, and state land revenues, good Yemeni citizens are browing poorer and more humiliated and confused. It is the nation's responsibility to control its own destiny. We have had enough of patience, appeasement, and hypocrisy.

The state's bankruptcy and the people's starvation are pushing the country toward a bloody conflagration. Neither can people further endure this humiliation and torture, nor is the despotic dictactor willing to submit to reason, conscience, and the nation's will. The clash between the people and the regime is becoming more intensive day after day. On the one hand, the regime is becoming more savage, strengthening the forces of coercion and torture and ordering them to spill the citizens' blood, violate their sanctities, and deprive them of their livelihood; and on the other, the aggrieved people are increasingly rallying around the real opposition forces. They can now tell friend from foe. I believe that the confrontation—the violence and distress of which are feared by me and by every devout Yemeni—will not benefit the regime this time. The Yemeni people—with all their factions, tribes, popular leaderships, and oppositions forces—have decided to end the regime of plunder, havoc, and totalitarianism. They believe that the only way to eliminate this disease, which is is killing the country and the people, is constant action to assert their free will. There is no escape from the confrontation which will restore the nation's united ranks and dignified stances. We see the peoples of East Germany, Romania, Poland, and Hungary enjoying freedom and democracy, having eliminated all the effects of crime and utter loss. [passage omitted]

It is this tragedy that prompts us to call on all the institutions established since unification to begin an immediate investigation. This tragedy has been brought on the nation by a single individual—and yet the entire nation is now suffering its consequences. This tragedy prompts us to demand that the person responsible be brought to trial so that justice can have the final word. Then we will know whether or not the present democratic trend is genuine. The people's forces will be able to decide with full clarity the next steps, namely: the removal of the head of corruption from the seat of power—and this is the least that is expected; the return to the rule of the Islamic shari'a and the constitution;

adherence to the principles and aims of the September revolution; respect for the nation's rights to justice and equality; and the safeguarding of the people's interests at home and abroad.

The nation will triumph in the end, as history will testify. God Almighty supports those who uphold Him.

Causes of Split Among Ruling Parties Viewed

PM1402114491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Bid Requests Detailed Statement of Yemeni President's Financial Transfers"]

[Text] Bonn, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Quoting sources close to the Socialist Party—one of the ruling parties in the Yemeni Republic (formerly the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen)—people arriving from the Yemeni capital have said that Party Secretary General 'Ali al-Bid has officially asked the office of President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih (who recently promoted himself to the rank of lieutenant general) for a detailed statement of the president's transfers since August.

Yemeni opposition sources in European capitals have revealed that the president's office refused to reply to the request, and that this has prompted a sharp dispute among those currently sharing power in Yemen.

According to the same sources, since August the Yemeni president has ordered the payment of tens of millions of dollars, classed as military expenses, to persons unknown, on the pretext of making preparations to confront a foreign offensive against the country. This prompted the indignation and suspicion of the Socialist Party, which fears a coup in which the Army would remove the Socialists, whom the president has so far been unable to buy with public money.

A spokesman for the Yemeni opposition said that the reason for the emergence of the present dispute, at grassroots level, is that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is following Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's policies hostile to the Arab and Islamic nation's interests, thus doing Yemen enormous harm. This has led to the suspension of work on all development projects, thus making hundreds of thousands of expatriates jobless and causing an ugly increase in crime.

The sources likened the atmosphere of the current dispute between southerners and northerners in Sanaa to the atmosphere of the early days of January 1986 that removed the communist regime in South Yemen. But, in the opposition's view, the cause of the anticipated explosion in Sanaa is President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's attempt to drag Yemen to destruction as a result of policies that follow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's instructions and entirely ignore the views of local political forces and Yemeni national interests.

Salih, Senior Officials, Muslim Scholars Meet

EA2102110291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today met in the company of his brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council; al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-Arashi and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, members of the Presidential Council; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy premier for internal affairs, a number of their eminences the religious scholars ['ulema]. Several issues relevant to the nation-building process and the strengthening of unity and national cohesion were discussed.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council and his deputy addressed the meeting stressing the importance of the vanguard role of the religious scholars in our country with regard to the entrenchment and deepening of national unity, and the mustering of ranks to confront all challenges facing the homeland, particularly under the present circumstances in which the imperialist-zionist onslaught against the Muslim-Arab nation is increasing. They referred to the responsibility of the religious scholars who as heirs of the prophets provide wise and sincere advice for the sake of God to ensure the unity of the people, the cohesion of society, and the use of all energy for the good and benefit of all, and also combat all negative aspects and narrow fanaticism, in whatever form, by sincere appeals and noble preaching which implant love and goodwill in the heart.

The brother president and his deputy clarified that the achievement of Yemeni unity represented the greatest victory for our people in their modern history, namely the genuine embodiment of their struggle and sacrifices as well as their painstaking efforts along the road of loyalty to their devoted martyrs and implementation of the objectives and aims of the Yemeni Revolution. They pointed out that unity was a great gain and a blessing from God which we must preserve, nurture, and maintain by further responsible attention to strengthening its existence and putting into practice all the goals, hopes, and aspirations. They made it clear that unity was a symbol of Yemeni pride, strength, and dignity, and a source of good and prosperity for our Yemeni people. They stressed that the leadership will always be inspired by their eminences the religious scholars through their sincere advice and consultation to ensure further progress for the march of the nation-building process along the correct road in which are embodied all the goals and aspirations of our people for progress and cultural awakening through democratic cooperation on the part of all the people.

Commentary Views U.S. 'Plans' in Arab Region

EA1902210591 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Ahmed Fad'aq commentary; from the "direct newscast" program]

[Text] There is no doubt that the United States [words indistinct] in the events now taking place is not at all (?interested in) any peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. At the very time that Iraq is trying to stop the (?battles) and is declaring its goodwill regarding implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 660, the United States has stepped up its destructive attacks on Iraq. Since last night and continuing today, American military aircraft have been raiding Baghdad, raids described as the most severe directed against this city since the start of the fighting. The United States is, thereby, ignoring the peace trends now beginning to emerge and are arousing a tide of fury among the peoples. The United States has ignored the international appeals calling for a halt to the raids, violence, and bombardments. Reports indicate that the allied forces are now preparing to launch a land and sea offensive against the Iraqi forces in Kuwait in spite of the Soviet appeal that the attack be postponed. The explosive atmosphere in which the region is now living as a result of the United States' intransigence has filled everyone with frustrations insomuch as the United States insists on pushing matters toward war and collision, thus creating a dangerous atmosphere of tension in which the Gulf crisis cannot be resolved peacefully, and which will block the efforts being made by Iraq, the Soviet Union, and other states to steer events toward a peaceful end, thus also creating a peaceful and stable situation in the region.

This confirms what the United States is trying to do in terms of implementing its plans to impose hegemony over the Arab region by ending the crisis [words indistinct] by destroying Iraq's military, economic, and political capacities, thus permitting the implementation of the United States' plans to impose an order of its choice over the Arab region. It is, therefore, essential [passage indistinct].

Spokesman on Allied 'Incursion' From Saudi Arabia

NC2102183891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1754 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Statement by a military spokesman issued on 21 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1600 today, the enemy carried out an incursion across the Saudi border in the southern operations sector, in the sector of the valiant al-Mansur Forces. With the determination and courage of the brave Iraqi men, our valiant forces confronted the enemy attack with all types of weapons, directing the fire of Iraqi anger against the scoundrels from every direction, inflicting on them extremely heavy losses in men and equipment.

We give the good news to our free people and valiant soldiers that the situation is good, under control, and is in favor of our brave forces in every aspect.

We announce that our valiant forces will destroy this attempt and will destroy every attempt by the aggressors. We shall make the ground fighting which the enemies have been talking about an abyss into which their forces will fall, and it will be the key to a great victory, God willing. We will provide our people and fighting sons with the details of this battle at a later time, God willing.

God bless our courageous men in the valiant al-Mansur forces. Glory and dignity will be theirs—commanders, officers, and soldiers. Thank God for his victory at any time.

[Dated] 21 February

'Enemy Attack' Repulsed

NC2102191491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1836 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Brothers, we have just received the following statement issued by a military spokesman:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Further to our statement issued this evening on the enemy attack against the heroic al-Mansur forces and just as we told our great people, just as we expected from our heroic soldiers, and just as we had hoped from these valiant soldiers of the al-Mansur forces and other valiant forces, our forces crushed the enemy attack, inflicting on the aggressors extremely heavy losses, both dead and wounded. They also destroyed quantities of weapons, hardware, and equipment. The remnants of the enemy retreated in disappointment and humiliation. Our forces remained steadfast in their positions after inflicting defeat on the aggressors. The situation stabilized completely at 1845 today in favor of our victorious forces.

Once again, we congratulate the soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, in the al-Mansur forces on this victory, and we salute them—commanders, officers, and soldiers—for their spirit of courage and valor. We also salute their efficiency in quickly dealing with, and repulsing the enemy attack. We will give our dear citizens the details of this successful battle when they are available. The banner of Iraq will continue to fly in glory, and our feet will remain set on the heads of the enemies—the Americans, the Zionists, and their slaves. Our victory is from God alone.

[Dated] 21 February

Communique 57 on Downed Planes, Missile Hits

NC2202103091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Communique No. 57 issued by the Armed Forced General Command—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Some people have been vexed by the towering construction of Iraq that the revolution made and were annoyed to see this noble homeland revive once more and resume its historic role. These people were gripped by terror as they witnessed Iraq's political, economic, social, and military potential grow. They felt the earth shaking under their feet and sensed that their occupation of Palestine and their illegitimate interests were greatly threatened by Iraq's power, the power that was consolidated by the exceptional leadership of the courageous, sincere, responsible, and prudent hero Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Therefore, these people began to conspire, openly and secretly, against Iraq. When all their plots failed, they resorted to this war as a means to stop this serious threat [by Iraq] that has begun to reshape the course of history as well as the relations among countries.

However, the Iraqi people, marching under the banner of their leader, became more resolute in their faith in God, their commitment to the right principles, their bid to liberate the land and sacred sites of Arabs and Muslims, and their concern for the wealth of the nation. The Iraqi people took to the trenches of honor to defend thier right cause and, in doing so, they gained the approval and assistance of God, the solidarity of Arabs and Muslims, and the support of all honorable people. Iraq and its leader have become, rightly, a symbol for everything that is good, noble, and excellent, and a model for all the nations of the world.

Dear brothers, in this heroic epic, the soldiers, officers, and commanders of Iraq, those noble and dedicated men, have continued their sacred jihad under the slogan of God is great, a slogan with great moral and ethical value.

The following is a roundup of our activities and the enemy's attacks in the past 24 hours:

1. At 1600 yesterday, an enemy force from the vilest party in the imperialist-Zionist alliance, the party which is the most spiteful and conspiratorial against the Arab nation, and which has harmed this nation most—we mean Britain—tried to attack the heroic al-Mansur forces sector of operations. With the spirit of the 1920

revolution and with the spirit of revenge for the martyrs of 1941 and to wreak revenge on those who partitioned the Arab homeland, carved up a piece of Iraq, and established the Zionist entity, your sons exploded in anger against this attempt. They opened up all the burning fire on the historic enemies and with all weapons. With stubborn steadfastness and a wonderful fighting performance by our soldiers and an efficient field command, the heroic al-Mansur forces repulsed the aggressors at 1845, inflicting substantial casualties among them, destroying most of the weapons of the attacking forces, and compelling the remaining force to flee. All praise for the heroic al-Mansur forces—commanders, officers, and soldiers. May God bless their brave struggle.

2. To take revenge on the treasonous Saudi family and to deal with the military effort of the enemy alliance, our heroic missile force directed two destructive strikes with Iraqi missiles on the Saudi Khalid town and Khalid military airport last night. After carrying out their duty, the missile launchers returned safely to base, thanks be to God. Congratulations to our officers and soldiers in our heroic missile force. May God bless their efforts.

3. The criminal enemy carried out 23 air sorties over citizens' houses in residential areas, herdsmen's tents, a number of bridges and culverts, an irrigation control system [nazim lilray], and flocks of sheep grazing in the countryside. We will provide our citizens with the number of air sorties over the military targets in a later statement.

4. With efficiency, perseverance, and courage, and with God's help, our air and ground defenses shot down five planes, two of them helicopters.
Victory is always for great Iraq. Go forward.

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command
[Dated] 6 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22 February 1991

Spokesman Details Missile Strikes

NC2202110891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1026 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Military spokesman's statement]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

1. At dawn today, with God's will and the zeal of the enthusiastic men of our heroic missile force, three destructive missile blows were dealt to concentrations of enemy warplanes located at 'Isa military airport [in Bahrain] from which the aggressors' aircraft take off to strike at our troops and our civilian citizens. After delivering these successful and destructive blows, the launching pads returned safely to their bases, praise be to God. Let the enemies know that we will be after them where ever their centers of aggression and injustice will be, and not a single enemy target is outside the reach of the hands of Iraq.

2. Before midnight yesterday, our heroic missile force carried out a destructive missile strike at Khalid military city [in Saudi Arabia], pounding its targets.

3. Further to our statement No. 57 issued at noon today, we have confirmed that another enemy fighter plane was shot down over the city of Baghdad when the enemy targeted the civilian neighborhoods of the city at 2000 last night.

Glory and honor to the men of our missile force and our ground and air defenses, and praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 22 February

Communique: 'Enemy Has Started the Ground Battle'

NC2202112091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1021 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 58 issued by the Armed Forces General Command—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; God is great, God is great, God is great, and from Him we draw succor and victory. Brother citizens; sons of our heroic Armed Forces, who are holding fast on the confrontation lines to defend the sacred shrines, land, sovereignty, and honor, with faith, arms, and courage, efficiency, and resolve. Sons of our glorious Arab nation; gatherings of the faithful and free people around the world: After our valiant forces had defeated the attack carried out by the enemy yesterday, led by a British armored divsion, the enemy continued to engage our forces with fire. At 0915 [0615 GMT] today the enemy forces carried out preparatory bombardment of our forces, accompanied by a new attempt to attack our forces in the same sector. This unequivocally means that the enemy has started the ground battle. Yes, the ground battle has begun, in view of the size of the enemy offensive, the goals he seeks to achieve, and the course of the battle.

We announce to the world public opinion that the U.S. Administration, its allies, and their agents in the region are responsible for this grave development which will wipe out all the peace opportunities that Iraq had welcomed. They are the ones who will be held responsible before God, mankind, and history for all the blood that will be shed in their war of aggression.

As for Iraq, it will remain committed to peace, insisting on its rights, and defending its territory and sovereignty. Iraq will deal their forces the biggest hit and will inflict on them heavy losses, thus imposing defeat on them, God willing.

Our Armed Forces—commanders, officers and other ranks—renew the pledge before God to their hero leader

Saddam Husayn that they will rub the aggressors' noses in the mud of defeat. The Armed Forces are completely ready for this ground war. Since the aggressors resort to this war as a means for blackmail and threats, our Armed Forces will make of this ground war the gateway that will lead to the glorious victory by Iraq, the Arabs, and the Muslims, and by all the honorable men in the world. Victory comes only from God, as He is the only one who is sincere.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command
[Dated] 6 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22 February 1991

Soviet Reportage on 'Aziz's Moscow Visit

WA2202024791

For USSR coverage of 'Aziz's 21 February visit to Moscow, including talks with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and reactions to Gorbachev's peace plan, see the Near East & South Asia of th 22 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Comparison of Saddam's 21 Feb Speech

NC2102202291

Baghdad INA in Arabic from 1538 GMT to 1835 GMT on 21 February transmits the "text" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech on 21 February. The INA version has been compared with the Baghdad Domestic Service version published in the 21 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 21-24 and found to be identical, thus allowing for the following clarifications:

Page 21, column one, second paragraph, sentence four, make read: ...weight for assessing each individual case, regardless of whether.... (rewording, deleting queried word);

Same page, column two, first full paragraph, first sentence make read: ...permanent manner and at any moment is not an... (rewording, deleting queried word);

Same column, second paragraph, first sentence make read: ...the elements of what is required. (deleting editorial notation);

Same paragraph, from sentence five make read: ...values of Iraq. Viewing the offensive aspect of that day while describing its events should not be taken out.... (supplying indistinct words, rewording);

Same column, paragraph three, only sentence make read: ...circles, especially among anti-Arab Western politicians, to understand has.... (rewording, supplying indistinct words, deleting queried word);

Page 22, column two, first partial paragraph, first partial sentence make read: ...not know the aspects of links, before a rational.... (clearing queried words);

Same column, same paragraph, first full sentence make read: ...facts or new opportunities that will reveal.... (clearing queried word);

Page 23, column one, fourth full paragraph, from sentence two make read: ...need? Is there any history that our great...? (rewording, deleting queried word)

Same paragraph, from last sentence make read: ...the satisfaction of the nation.

There is no.... (deleting editorial notation and word "and");

Page 24, column one, first full paragraph, second sentence make read: ...in killing civilians and striking at and destroying property.... (supplying indistinct word, rewording);

Same paragraph, sentence three make read: ...this in an expression to cover up.... (clearing queried word).

Military Spokesman on Land Attacks, Enemy Losses

NC2202140391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Further to Communique No. 58 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this afternoon, in which we declared that the enemy has challenged the will of the international community which is seeking peace and the enemy's initiation of the land war, and in which we clarified the clash of the heroic al-Mansur forces with the enemy forces when they attempted to attack them again this morning, we declare to our people, their valiant Armed Forces, and to Arab and world public opinion the following:

First, the enemy has since this morning been attacking in more than one direction in the southern operations sector. In addition to attacking the al-Mansur forces, the enemy later and before noon today began attacking the al-Hamzah forces.

Second, our valiant forces confronted the enemy forces with various weapons, inflicting considerable losses on its units. Some of them were compelled to retreat. The situation is now completely in favor of our brave forces. There are signs of definite victory against the forces of the infidels, God willing.

We will update our dear citizens on the details as soon as we have them.

[Dated] 22 February

Envoy in PRC on Hammadi Talks, Withdrawal Offer

NC2002145991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to the PRC Muhammad Amin al-Jaff on Iraqi Deputy Prime MInister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi's talks with PRC officials, by Jamal al-'Abbadi—recorded]

[Text][al-'Abbadi] Mr. Ambassador, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has concluded his talks with senior PRC officials. How would you assess these talks and the issues discussed?

[Al-Jaff] All I can say is that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi arrived yesterday evening. He held talks with Li Peng, State Council premier; and Wu Xueqian, State Council vice premier, this morning. He submitted to them the Iraqi initiative issued by the Revolution Command Council on 15 February. He conveyed a message from the Iraqi leadership to the PRC leadership regarding Iraq's readiness to deal with [li al-ta'amul] Security Council Resolution No. 660, including withdrawal from Kuwait. He explained all the implications of the initiative aimed at achieving peace and stability in our region and its effects on the whole world. In fact, the PRC leaders considered the Iraqi decision to withdraw from Kuwait a positive step toward peace. This has been endorsed by the PRC in all its positions on the developments in the Gulf crisis since the entry of the Iraqi forces into Kuwait and until now, with the war entering its second month. Naturally, this PRC stand is also in harmony with its call for a political settlement and its opposition to the use of military force. The PRC State Council premier also stressed that his government will continue its efforts and support for all initiatives proposed by the various parties toward a peaceful solution and halting the war—Arab, Islamic, nonaligned, the Soviet initiatives, and the Iraqi initiative.

[Al-'Abbadi] Mr. Ambassador, do you sense any shift in the PRC position on the crisis or the possibility of the PRC's participation in the efforts to establish peace in the region?

[Al-Jaff] Regarding the Revolution Command Council resolution released on 15 February on readiness to deal with the Security Council Resolution No. 660, including withdrawal from Kuwait, the PRC Foreign Ministry official spokesman expressed on Saturday 16 February, as you may have heard, the hope that the Iraqi indication to withdraw its forces from Kuwait will be accompanied by means translating this into actual withdrawal. The spokesman added that this is the first time that Iraq has referred to its readiness to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. He focused on this aspect and considered it to be a positive step, as I said, toward a political solution to the conflict in the Gulf. The PRC supports this attitude through political and diplomatic channels within the framework of the Security Council's relevant resolutions. He also emphasized and appealed to all parties to make the utmost efforts, exercise self-restraint, reduce the aggressive operations, show a full desire for a political solution, and pave the way for the international community's efforts for a peaceful solution. The PRC believes in the need for five elements [not further identified] that it considers important to achieve a peaceful settlement.

WHO, UNICEF To Learn of Embargo Impact

NC2002122891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has said the UN agencies have recently responded to Iraq's appeals and the suffering which its people are putting up with because of the unjust and ugly U.S.-led criminal campaign that aims at expelling, starving, and murdering the Iraqi people in a manner that contradicts all humanitarian values and ethics.

In a statement to INA following his meeting with a delegation from WHO and UNICEF, the minister said: Since the beginning of the unjust campaign against our country in August 1990, we have repeatedly clarified to these agencies, through correspondence and direct contact with their delegations, that they should play their role in exposing the crimes committed by the U.S. Administration and the colonialist and Zionist parties against the Iraqi people, especially after the resolutions issued by the U.S. Security Council [as received] to bar medicine, food, and baby milk which contradict the agreements signed by those agencies and their ethics.

He stressed that the criminal method used in texting and issuing the Security Council resolutions in this regard is malicious. When the text of those resolutions is read, it is understood that medicines are not included in the embargo but can be provided through the humanitarian organizations and are subject to inspection by the governments of the states exporting them—the same governments that are members of the alliance in the aggression against our country.

The health minister said that the head of the sanctions committee acted in an insolent and criminal manner when he claimed that Iraq has stockpiled enough medicine to last it several years. The head of the sanctions committee claimed that medicine is being used for the purposes of chemical and biological warfare, and took action to prevent medicine, vaccines, and infant milk from arriving in Iraq.

The health minister said that the presence in Iraq of the UNICEF and WHO representatives will have a positive effect in providing the true facts, for these representatives will have direct access to information concerning the impact of the embargo on medical supplies and the immediate need to provide Iraq promptly with medicine. The representatives of the two organizations will also witness the results of the criminal and brutal bombardment by America and its allies of the hospitals, health centers, medicine storehouses, water purification plants, and other civilian targets.

Jordanian Party Leader Cable Supports Saddam

NC2002194491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from 'Ali 'Amir, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Party's central committee, in which he declared his absolute support for Iraq and his readiness to sacrifice for the sake of the great cause championed by Iraq.

He said that the Jordanian people are today standing firmly with Iraq in waging the mother of battles. He added: We bow in humbleness to the extraordinary heroism and legendary steadfastness shown by the Iraqi people in the face of the oppressors and their cheap tools, the agents and traitors, who accepted disgrace, shame, and the path of treason. We are ready to undertake every form of national mobilization in Jordan so that Jordanian steadfastness will be the twin of Iraqi-Palestinian steadfastness. The invaders will not be allowed to succeed. Jordan's place will only be in the trench of confrontation and resistance to aggression. We are with you, Your Excellency the President. Iraq will triumph and the enemies of right, humanity, and the peoples will be defeated.

Egyptian 'Arab Vanguards' Cable Support for Saddam

NC2102070491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the Arab Vanguards in Egypt in which they reiterated their support for Iraq under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation. Following is the text of the cable:

Esteemed leader and struggler President Saddam Husayn: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

At a time when the waves of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression founder on the rock of fantastic steadfastness of the great Iraqi people and their gigantic army, the ignorance and hatred of the neofacists in the U.S. black house, their allies, and lackey Arabs are intensified against Iraq of Arabism and Muslims. They are pouring their wrath on Iraq's children, women, elderly, hospitals, holy places, civilian centers, and historic cultural symbols.

After all the abominable crimes committed by the group of evil and hypocrites, this debauched group carried out a grotesque terrorist act that has shaken the conscience of everyone, even those with only an atom of conscience. The U.S.-Atlantic planes, which are fuelled with Arab oil ripped off by the Al Sa'ud atheists, and imbued with all the Zionist grudges, bombarded a defenseless civilian home for the aged in Baghdad, the capital of jihad, where faithful struggler Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, is carrying the God is great banner. The souls of martyrs who fell as a result of this cowardly crime and this historic black hatred became the bright stars in Iraq's clear skies despite the black ravens.

The Arab Vanguards in Egypt, which undertook to avenge all the martyrs, including the martyrs of Bahr al-Baqr School [bombed by Israeli planes], will not be content with mere denunciation and condemnation of this cowardly crime, nay they will respond to this crime as a corps of the faithful and will strike at the dens of aggression, treachery, and treason where coward Husni is hiding.

Let us declare mourning days in honor of the innocent martyrs, whose blood has paved the road to victory in the mother of battles. Let all the faithful and believers hand-in-hand wash away the shame brought to Egypt's people, history, and martyrs by agent Husni.

May God have mercy on all the noble martyrs. We convey our condolences to the Iraqi people, the spring of human civilzations, and we implore God to grant the Iraqi Army, the army of the holy war, victory. We beseech God Almighty to protect and preserve great struggler and the leader of the faithful Saddam Husayn. Let us punish all the traitors, the slaves of the Americans, Zionists, and petrodollars. Let the banner of God is great fly high. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Victory comes only from God.

Arab Soldiers Said Arrested in Saudi Arabia

NC2002085991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Syrian, Egyptian, and Moroccan soldiers in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] have joyously celebrated the Iraqi missile attack on the capital of evil and aggression, Tel Aviv. French television networks broadcast videotape from Najd and Hejaz, showing Syrian, Egyptian, and Moroccan soldiers firing in the air to express their joy over the landing of the Iraqi missiles in the Zionist entity.

The BBC cited French media sources as saying that 100 officers of the Arab forces in Najd and Hejaz have been arrested for their participation in the celebration of the Iraqi bombardment of the Zionist entity.

Paper Claims Saudis Execute 8 'Senior' Officers

NC2102160591 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Feb 91 pp 1, 6

[Text] Amman (INA)—The rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] have executed eight senior Saudi officers, including Saudi Air Force pilots.

Press sources have revealed that three senior Saudi officers were executed in Riyadh after being interrogated for more than three days. The sources said that the three martyred officers were among those who sympathize with Iraq and reject the presence of the American-Zionist-Atlantic invasion forces in Najd and Hejaz.

The sources added that five Saudi Air Force pilots were executed at an American military base in Dhahran in front of a large number of American officers and soldiers after refusing to take part in the allied aircraft's criminal bombardment of civilian targets in the southern Iraqi governorates, including al-Basrah and Kuwait. The sources said that four of the pilots had even refused to take off with their aircraft to participate in the brutal raids on Iraq, while the fifth pilot, who had staged several air sorties during the past several days, dropped the aircraft's load of explosives and bombs in Gulf waters to avoid involvement in the crime of indiscriminate bombing of Arab civilians in Iraq.

The sources said that the bodies of the eight martyred officers in Riyadh and Dhahran have not yet been handed over to their families. They added that the government of the betrayer of the two holy mosques uses the same practice as its American, British, and French allies to conceal the dead bodies of the victims to avoid the reactions of Saudi citizens, who have begun to act and to fire against the forces of aggression.

In another development, arrivals from Najd and Hejaz said that the government of the betrayer of the two holy mosques imprisons any shopkeeper who refuses to deal with the invasion forces. They said this decision was made after a large number of the invasion forces personnel complained that Saudi shopkeepers and restaurants were refusing to sell them what they need or to allow them to enter restaurants so as to avoid their filth, which nobody in Saudi Arabia accepts other than the rulers in their palaces and in the buildings of government ministries and institutions.

Baghdad Airport, Residential Area Bombed 18 Feb

LD2002115191 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 20, IRNA—In the heavy bombardment of al-Muthanna airport of Baghdad by the U.S.-led allied forces early Monday morning a number of transport planes parked on the airport were destroyed.

Bits of the flying metals of the planes hit the nearby streets and motorways.

The airport has been hit at least four times since the outbreak of the war.

In the Monday bombardment a residential quarter near the Tigris River was also hit. No detail is yet available on extend of damage and casualties.

Iraqi Red Crescent Issues 'Urgent Appeal'

NC2102154291 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 21 (AFP)—The Iraqi Red Crescent (IRC) issued here Thursday an "urgent appeal" for international medical and humanitarian assistance to support the 18 million-strong Iraqi population ravaged by allied air raids.

"We issue an international appeal to the humanitarian relief organisations to rush and furnish Iraqis with whatever humanitarian supplies they could," the IRC's International Affairs Director Ahmed Khalid told reporters in Amman.

Mr. Khalid declined to estimate how many Iraqi civilians were killed or injured since the war erupted a month ago.

But he said "the toll is high" considering that allied sources "have been talking about 60,000 sorties deep inside the country."

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi was quoted this week in Teheran as saying that 20,000 Iraqis died in the first 26 days of the war while 60,000 were injured.

Independent organisations have put the death toll in Iraq at nearly 10,000.

Mr. Khalid said the IRC had set up two relay stations to receive relief assistance, one at the Iranian border post of (al-Mundhiriyah) and the other at Tirbil along the border with Jordan.

IRNA Reports Intense Air Attacks on Baghdad

LD2102113491 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 21, IRNA—Iraq's capital city of Baghdad was air raided at 03:00 and 3:25 local time Thursday.

IRNA corresondent dispatched to Iraq reported that the first raid by the invading fighters was so intense that the shock resistant al- Rashid Hotel was severely rocked and windows of the neighbouring houses were rattled.

Immediately after the attacks, the panicked Baghdad residents rushed to the streets in an attempt to escape to safety using cars, carts or carriages.

The situation in Baghdad, however, was relatively calm last night. Water and power supplies as well as telephone lines are cut off while petrol is completely scarce as a result of which few vehicles appear in the streets in comparison with two weeks ago.

'Relatively Calm' Night in Baghdad 21 Feb

LD2102133791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The radio and television reporter dispatched to Baghdad has sent a report:

[Unidentified reporter] Following 48 hours of heavy missile attacks and aerial bombing directed at Baghdad, the city was relatively calm last night.

As the result of heavy attacks on Baghdad on Tuesday night [19 February], which began at 2300 and continued until dawn, residents of Baghdad hastily swarmed into the streets to flee the city with whatever means they could obtain.

Simultaneous with the sound of the first explosion, the ambulance sirens engulfed the entire city. Meanwhile, following the U.S. missile attack on the al-Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of women and children, the residents of Baghdad show no inclination to go to the shelters.

Meanwhile, Baghdad and other cities of Iraq continue to live in total darkness. The reporters and television crews stationed in Baghdad continue to transmit reports every minute on the attacks of the allied forces against Iraq to all parts of the world. Yesterday and this morning several new crews from Jordan, Algeria, Japan, Italy, and Turkey arrived in Baghdad to cover the news in Iraq.

Official Discusses Cholera, Typhoid Threat

LD2102173191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The water shortage and the spread of various diseases are seriously threatening the Iraqi people. The Voice and Vision [Iranian television] correspondent in Baghdad reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] The shortage of healthy drinking water and the use of unhygienic water, as well as the shortage of powdered milk for children, is seriously threatening with death a great number of injured Iraqi infants and children. This news was announced by a hygiene official in Naynawah Province during a visit by a number of foreign correspondents to a hospital in Mosul. He added: The total cut in electricity, which has caused the breakdown of medical facilities, and the use of unhygienic water by the people and the patients have increased the threat of cholera and typhoid. He described the continuation of the present situation as extremely disconcerting and called on all countries and international forums to dispatch food and medical aid to Iraq to prevent a tragedy.

While inspecting the bombed installations and residential units in Mosul yesterday, foreign reporters and cameramen compiled news reports on the injured in a hosptal, especially the infants and the children.

Southern Cities Bombed, 'Fire' Visible From Iran

LD2202112591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The Iraqi southern cities were bombed last night, too. According to a report of the Islamic Republic News Agency from Ahvaz, Iraq's southern cities witnessed flights of U.S. and coalition forces at 1917 and 1925 [1547 and 1555 GMT] last night.

On the basis of this report, moments after bombing a region near Basra, flames of fire were visible in a place 20 km from the Shalamcheh border.

Commentary Welcomes Ground Battle With Enemy

NC2202145891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1350 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of dignity and glory, O sons of Iraq, O honorable people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The despicable ones wanted it; they wanted it, and they have planned for it; they wanted it, and we knew their evil and malicious intentions of evil for Iraq and the Arab nation. The ground attack has begun, despite all of the international initiatives approved by Iraq for an honorable peace which, would stop this treacherous aggression against the territory of lofty Iraq. They wanted it, so it is welcome. The sons of Iraq have prepared for them what they deserve—God's burning fire, which will devour the evil and the despicable traitors who have sold themselves cheaply to the foreigner. They have sold their honor and their nation for their own benefit. May they and their evil intentions perish.

They wanted a ground war. The soldiers of Iraq, the soldiers of the leader, Saddam Husayn, supported by God and the people, welcome it with hearts full of faith in God, under the banner of God is Great, and in the soil of this dear homeland, the homeland of civilizations and glories and the homeland of science and knowledge from which the scoundrels derived what they call their civilization and progress.

The soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn were ready for this battle, the mother of battles, as they have been in all the glorious battles of history. The sons of Iraq, who were breastfed the milk of this generous land by a free mother, on which the man of this age, the man of Iraq is growing, will make their rotten bodies food for the ravens as a punishment for what their dirty hands have committed by attacking the territory of lofty Iraq. Victory will remain the lot of the glorious Iraqis, march with the banner of God is great and the banner of the leader of the victory march, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him for this people and this glorious and immortal nation.

U.S., Britain Said 'Escalating Aggression'

NC2202160191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1119 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Sisters, brothers in great Iraq and the Arab nation, brothers in religion, friends worldwide: With the beginning of the U.S.-Zionist land aggression today, the imperialist forces have revealed their wicked intentions toward the Iraq of Arabism and our Arab nation. They have also revealed that their proclaimed objectives are different from the real objectives, for these forces do not want a solution to this or that problem, as their political and media sounding boards are trying to say. But they aim at regaining their colonialist hegemony in the region and thwarting the attempt of awakening, which Iraq represented in various fields, foremost of which is its clinging to its sovereignty, freedom, free choice, its pan-Arab principles, and other relevant commitments. They attempted to abort the new awakening by destroying Iraq's military and economic potential and all the signs of its civilization and upsurge.

After Iraq proposed its peaceful initiative on 15 February and showed a positive, constructive spirit in dealing with peace initiatives; and at a time when well-meaning people are trying to find an approach to a comprehensive peace in the region to stop the barbaric aggression against Iraq and the Arabs, the American and British aggressors are escalating their aggression by beginning their land attack against our heroic, steadfast Armed Forces.

Brothers, what Bush wants from Iraq and the Arab nation is now clear. After crying for a long time over his agents in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for a long time, and from the position of the arrogant invader, Bush is today imposing his traditional colonialist conditions which had perished for good after our great Iraqi people expelled the last British soldier and after our great Iraqi people nationalized their oil wealth and ended forever the colonialist presence of oil companies and their plundering of Iraq's wealth.

Yes, Iraqis and strugglers everywhere, the leaders of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression want the region to be subservient to them. They want its oil wealth. They want to achieve strategic parity in favor of the foundling, Israel, after this balance was upset in favor of the Arabs, thanks to Iraq's awakening, progress, and the wisdom and courage of the historic, distinctive leadership of Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqis, joined by all the honorable Arabs and strugglers for freedom and peace in the world, have made their statements about the aggression and its aims, and they are bent on destroying it. While we adhere to just and honorable peace which safeguards rights and dignity, we will also fight aggression and aggressors and destroy them all. Bush, Major, and all the amirs of aggression and invasion will realize that the ages of occupation and invasion have perished for good, that Iraq will achieve victory, God willing, and that the invaders' defeat on land is certainly approaching.

Comments on British, Coalition Military Operation

NC2202113491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0844 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Unattributed TAlk]

[Text] Esteemed citizens: Yesterday, the British enemy forces, supported by U.S. forces, tested their bad luck when they attacked a front manned by our units of the stalwart al-Mansur forces. The attacking forces were crushed and the remnants took to their heels in utter defeat and disappointment in less than three hours.

What was the objective of this abortive maneuver which brought the enemy a new defeat? Does the enemy seek to convince himself of the efficiency of his ground forces? Or does he want to test the stiffness of the Iraqi front to convince himself of its strength so that he then is compelled to adopt a political position which is commensurate with the size of his defeat? Or does the enemy think that he can develop his offensive and move onto the next stage of the offensive?

Regardless of the enemy's objective behind its attack on the valiant al-Mansur forces, all the enemy's plans failed under Iraqi fire. The only lesson learned from the attack was that the Iraqi front is stiffer than what he had expected and that the Iraqi forces—units and formations—are armed with resoluteness and firm determination.

We are confident that the headquarters of the vanquished General Schwarzkopf is now trying to understand the lessons of the defeat as reported by his defeated forces. One of the lessons is that the media deception pursued by the enemy failed to help his forces avert defeat. Another lesson is that his losses were large enough to indicate that any larger offensive against our forces will produce an even much heavier defeat.

Further, what they reported and published about the size of the Iraqi losses since the start of the showdown is groundless and false. Perhaps this defeat can rescue them from their delusion.

Hence, the battlefield has proven that the Iraqi soldiers have been honest in their pledge to God and we are duty bound to come to their aid.

Talk Avers Nation's Stance Before 'Injustice'

NC2202093191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0735 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers in Iraq and the Arab homeland: Iraq will stay the course it has charted for itself—the course of freedom, dignity, and confident, faithful power.

Charting the Iraqi course was not easy, nor did it arise from a vacuum. It was neither an imitation [of any other course] nor an option dictated by others. It flowed from an indigenous experience and intelligent minds, and met the popular and historical needs of the Arab nation to regain its rights and occupy its rightful place, through which it can spread benevolence and innovate in every place. It is the Iraqi road followed only by honest and dedicated people. The enemy's interest in such a course never goes beyond sabotage in order to stop the march in its tracks and keep it from attaining its objectives.

Iraq and the well-intentioned Arabs have tried this course. Iraq has gone down this long road of spectacular success, which sparked off the diabolical instincts of the Americans and Zionists, and so the germ of conspiracy grew and waited for a chance to pounce on Iraq, which has kept up the process of advancement undeterred, mindful of possible engagement, and aware of the preparations and sacrifices needed. Thus, nothing has happened that was unexpected, including the bluster and threats and the subsequent air and missile aggression mounted with the full force of their accumulated hatred. And so Iraq charted the new course with awareness and blood, sweat, and toil, and took a stand defending the model experiment and the principles and values of the nation. Indeed, Iraq has taken a stand to defend Arab existence and destiny, and its legendary steadfastness against 30 countries has been an eloquent expression of this fact. The fact that a great number of countries are ganging up against Iraq and such heavy firepower is aimed at the people of Iraq—the vanguard and bulwark of the Arab nation—also testifies to the steadfastness of Iraq.

It is worth reminding ourselves and brothers that we in Iraq have never feared the aggressors—neither in the first hours or days, nor when they decided to prosecute their barbaric bombardment even on the 30th day of attack. We in Iraq are battle-hardened, armed with right and faith, and prepared for everything. We will not be deceived by the tricks of psychological warfare. We know that the price of steadfastness is high, and the price of victory even higher, and that whatever the sacrifices we will make will not have been in vain, knowing that we will then lead dignified lives on our soil.

Such is our clear and simple reality in Iraq. Do the enemies know anything about this reality? Do they believe it? Do they take it into account while making their calculations? Will their falsehoods and their wishful thinking be to any avail while ignoring the Iraqi reality? It is the enemies' problem. They are free to indulge in lies and ignore facts. But we are also free to stick to what we have tried. Our men have been tested, as have our women, children, and elderly. And our courageous, unique leadership will always lead each battle, for the good of Iraq, the Arab nation, and humanity. Such is Iraq. Is it possible that such an Iraq will shake in the face of injustice, hatred, and belligerence? No, and a thousand times no, says Iraq.

Battle Exposed 'Evil-Doers' as Cheats, Liars

NC2202083391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0616 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, with every passing day of the decisive mother of battles, great Iraq expresses its deep belief in the principles of justice, freedom, and peace, and its honest and true desire to establish security and stability in the region and around it, through which it can then establish peace throughout the entire world, whether through its generous and clear peace initiatives or its response to the initiatives from friends, especially when they do not contradict its principle objectives of retrieving its rights and providing the atmosphere of peace and stability in the region and the world.

At the same time, in this decisive and historic duel, Iraq has affirmed and proved that its power, with its various methods and abilities, is a power for peace, and one that Iraq has taken care to turn into a power for retrieving rights, confronting all forms of imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and challenges, and protecting the interests of Arabs and Muslims.

Iraq is actually working in this direction at a time when nearly 30 international sides, including some parties that claim Arabism and raise huge banners about liberation and maintenance of Arab and Islamic shrines, have placed themselves in the trench of the U.S. Administration and under the two main flags in the enemies' trench—the U.S. and Zionist flags. Their exposed criminal and indiscriminate goal is to destroy the power capabilities of Iraq and commit the ugliest bestial crimes against its valiant steadfast sons.

Since the world today is controled by this great density of statements by officials of the sides of aggression and their media trumpets propagated in various forms, the reality of the two contradictory stands—the Iraqi in one trench and the imperialist- Zionist-Atlantic in the opposite trench—has become much clearer than ever before. It has also become clear that Iraq's material and moral power is firmer and more entrenched, especially after the military battle has entered the second week of its second month, while the parties of the indiscriminate aggression have not realized the evil and unjust goals and objectives they wish to realize.

This means that a long and continuing battle will be a decisive incentive for clarifying more facts by the two very different sides which contradict each other completely in their intentions, goals, purposes, and objectives; to be more specific, the facts of Iraq's belief in peace and stability and its strong and firm will regarding its rights and those of the Arabs and the Muslims, and the aggressive trench's desecration of all norms, values, and laws, and its destructive intentions and evil grudges of hypocracy and double- standards.

Furthermore, at a time when Iraq is dealing with this duel from the perspective of its honest and clear course, the trench of evil-doers has been exposed to be more than just hypocritical in dealing with the laws of the international community. It has also been revealed to be a trench of liars, cheats, and deeply-rooted in crime. It intentionally covered up facts and distorted events for a clear purpose, which is to conceal its disappointment after months of beating the drums of direct threats and oppressive measures regarding its power and the solid alliance among its wretched parties.

It is only a matter of a few days before all the facts will surface. These facts will not be concealed by the claims and lies of the aggressive alliance. They cannot cover them up any longer.

Iraq's justice missiles will destroy the heads of aggression. The arms of the valiant men, the brave soldiers of Iraq, its strong fence, and its strike force shall remain firm and powerful along the path of justice, principles, and noble goals.

Commentary: Challenge Sets Third World Example

NC2102180691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0827 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The notion that the West is superior to the Third World is no longer accepted, and, in fact, is a peculiar notion since Iraq stood up to challenge the will of the evil ones, who have gathered from 30 countries, including America, Britain, and France.

For the first time in contemporary history, a Third World country has been able to take such a historic and honorable stance, which is the object of pride for every Arab and Muslim. The primary factor in Iraq's steadfastness against this brutal imperialist onslaught is the will of the Iraqi, who possesses an extraordinary ability to stand fast and fight with unique bravery and valor. For example, consider the force and potential of the countries of the anti-Iraq coalition, which the Iraqis turned into an average force that was unable to achieve its objectives in the way it wanted.

As the sons of Iraq bravely reject hegemony, tyranny, and subjugation, they are actually expressing their noble nature and the belief that they are fighting for a just cause and that they are defending their land, future, and the usurped rights of the Arabs and Muslims.

A people like the Iraqi people deserves to be an example for countries of the Third World, which the West has attempted—for hundreds of years—to subjugate and whose potential and capabilities it has tried to distort. Iraq's reliance on its intrinsic capabilities and cultural depth should be a lesson for every nation that seeks liberation from colonialism, old and new.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: Nation 'Still Strong'

NC2102145391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that Iraq is still strong with its historic and experienced leadership; its steadfast, patient, and struggling people; and its valiant and couragous Army known for its chapters of glory and triumph.

In today's editorial, the paper says that Iraq remains strong because of its leader, who is known for his wisdom, boldness, and prudence, and because of what it possesses in terms of weapons, equipment, and combat, technical, and scientific efficiency, which matches the best there is in the world.

The paper points out that Iraq is fortified by an Army that has a beginning but no end; an Army made of the entire people and a people under arms that make an entire Army.

The paper notes that Iraq made preparations for the biggest, the most dangerous, and the most ferocious confrontation and called its battle the crucial mother of battles. It is a battle fought to implement God's will and one in which victory will come from God, who promised the faithful that they will achieve victory while safeguarding the sanctities of the Arabs and the Muslims in Mecca and the tomb of the Prophet [Medina].

The paper stresses that the past seven months, which were full of daily proofs showing Iraq's patience and power, affirm to the alliance of evil and aggression more than anybody else that those whom they brought to fight Iraq are sinking to low depths and that all the parties to the alliance are embroiled, starting with the United States and even including the great State of Qatar.

The paper concludes by saying that the banners of God is great will remain fluttering high, and our rights will remain completely in our hands after we make the criminal aggressors taste the most bitter of defeats and turn their troops into torn bodies for which there will be no place on earth.

Talk on Timing, Substance of RCC Statement

NC2102113091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0628 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk: "Iraq's Steadfastness is the First Victory in the Mother of Battles"]

[Text] The statement issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 15 February came as a link in a series of efforts made by the Iraqi leadership in its management of the conflict against the hostile front and in order to spare the region and the world the catastrophe which the U.S. Administration planned, the most serious chapters of which are being currently implemented through the continuation of its treacherous aggression against Iraq.

The fact that the statement was issued at this point in time reflects one of the major objectives of the Iraqi statement. The statement was issued one month after the start of the aggression against our country and after the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation used the arms and destructive weapons they possessed and with which they intimidated the world. Fairy tales and legends were related about the magnitude and effectiveness of these weapons. Iraq has shown, however, through the steadfastness of its people—children, women, elderly people, and youth—that it is too strong and powerful to be intimated by these legends. Iraq has also demonstrated that these weapons and arms are too weak to frighten a people who have decided to espouse an independent policy. Hence, the Iraqi steadfastness was the first victory Iraq scored in the glorious mother of battles. In contrast, the battle resulted in a defeat for the United States, a first defeat represented by the collapse of the superpower which supposedly has frightening capabilities. Likewise, the targets of the aggression hit over the past four weeks have shown the entire world beyond any shadow of doubt that the prime objective of the aggression is to destroy Iraq's economic and military might. The battle was also a sign of defiance in the face of the United States and its illegitimate interests in the region. The U.S. Administration misrepresented the objectives of its aggression against Iraq to the world and deceived the world about these objectives. We have more to say about the timing of the statement.

A follow-up on the developments regarding the aggression against Iraq shows that over the next few days the aggression will witness a new turning point in its march, to be consummated by a ground engagement between the Iraqi Army and the armies of aggression. This will, according to all military and political observers, be a string of pitched battles that will inflict on the armies of Bush and his stooges thousands of victims and casualties and which will cause the region and the world catastrophes whose magnitude and effects no one knows.

If we are to discuss the timing of the statement, we will find that it reiterates Iraq's eagerness to attain a peaceful and just solution to regional problems, a solution according to which all peoples of the region would enjoy real peace based on justice. As for Iraq, it is ready to make sacrifices to achieve this objective. This has been an ingrained trait of the Iraqis. It is nothing new to Iraq. It is an affirmation of the spirit and contents of the initiative His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn launched on 12 August 1990. Besides, the statement is a reassertion of the statements repeatedly made by the leader president during his meetings and press interviews. In them, he said that Iraq views itself as a party which has a strongly vested interest in seeing comprehensive peace prevail in the region. By virtue of the fact that it is part of the Arab nation, Iraq believes that guaranteeing the restoration of the legitimate Arab rights anywhere is a gain for Iraq. Therefore, Iraq is ready to make sacrifices to achieve this objective. This has been repeatedly made clear by the leader president.

The Iraqi statement confirms the [word indistinct] perspective which effects a break between [words indistinct] and the causes which produced them. Basing judgment on such a shortsighted perspective [words indistinct] the hot firepower of war and produce real peace in the region, and that Iraq as well as the peoples of the region and the world have to wait for more wars that will cost them more victims and losses and wide-ranging catastrophes which will extend beyond the range of the current war. Hence, the RCC statement proceeded from a comprehensive perspective to end the war and to remove the injustices it caused.

This perspective can be summarized in the following points:

The first task of the United Nations [words indistinct] is to cancel the unjust (?campaigns) against Iraq that are contrary to the UN Charter and the spirit of the international charters and norms. These charters and norms were adopted through threats, blackmailing, and (?aggression) so that the United Nations could exercise its required role in the international order sought by the nations (?and so that) its hand will be clear, not marred with the blood of the crime of aggression against Iraq and killing and starving its people.

One of the basic conditions to end this war is to remove all the effects resulting from the aggression. Iraq and the world's peoples, who believe in peace, do not seek a cease-fire but the establishment of a real and just peace. The most important condition for establishing such a peace is for parties to adopt their decisions freely and with full conviction apart from any form of pressure or blackmailing. This requires the removal of the effects and tools of aggression, foremost of which is the cancellation of all resolutions and measures of boycott and embargo adopted by some countries against Iraq unilaterally or collectively before 2 August 1990 which were the real cause of the crisis in the Arabian Gulf. This also requires the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces from the region and a pledge by the countries that took part in the aggression to reconstruct what has been damaged by the aggression. And this is less than what they should do as a result of their participation in the unjustified and (?illegitimate) bombardment of the Iraqi economic and scientific facilities.

The (?solution) sought by Iraq to stop the aggressive war launched by the imperialist coalition against it should be within a comprehensive program to resolve all regional problems [word indistinct], particularly the Palestine question and the Zionist entity's occupation of the Arab land. It is natural for the world to demand the Zionist entity implement the UN resolutions and withdraw from the occupied territory. If it refuses to do so, the UN Security Council is required to adopt the same measures taken against Iraq and to implement them against the Zionist entity. [words indistinct] constitutes a real test for the United Nations and its credibility as well as for [words indistinct] the countries which supported the unjust resolutions against Iraq—in particular, the major countries led by the United States.

Security in the Arabian Gulf is the responsibility of the countries on its coast. Guaranteeing this security requires the prevention of any external interference and presence of foreign forces on its land and waters. This is because such a presence (?largely) contributes to increasing the factors of concern and tension among the regional states and (?represents) a factor for creating conflicts among them. This will also turn the Arabian Gulf into an arena for international disputes and a party to conflicts that are away from it. The events of [words indistinct] and the Gulf war have proven that the Arabian Gulf is the only region in the world currently slated to become a center for world collision as a result of the strategic importance of the region, which affects many international parties in the world.

The war in the Gulf is a direct result of the state of injustice prevailing in the world and the Arab region and of the division of the Arabs and the world into rich countries [words indistinct] and poor countries that are threatened by starvation, poverty, economic difficulties, and debts. If the world wants to enjoy a real stability in which nations would contribute positively and seriously, [words indistinct] international relations should be established in the region and the world—relations that are founded on the bases of justice in accordance with which the rich countries should have [word indistinct] commitment toward the poor countries [words indistinct].

Bush, his followers, and his propagandist organs wanted to delude the world public by saying that what Iraq put in the RCC statement is a group of conditions at a time when it is a correct expression (?of what contradicts with) the objectives of aggression against Iraq. What Iraq proposed are the necessary basics for reaching a lasting and honorable peaceful solution in which all nations in the region and the world enjoy a genuine and just peace.

Applying this concept alone makes us say that a new world has emerged, a world in which all nations [words indistinct].

Heavy Coalition Losses Predicted in Ground War

NC2002152291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1214 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Parties to the aggressive anti-Iraq alliance have begun talking about an imminent ground assault by the aggressors against the valiant Iraqi forces. They say they are awaiting the zero hour signal by those in charge, referring to criminal Bush and his Atlanticist and hypocrite Arab followers. They have insisted that their imminent campaign—they say—will be striking, [word indistinct] swift, low-cost, and will go on schedule, as they allege. However, the forces of the aggressive U.S.-Atlanticist alliance pretend to forget that they said their forces would be able to decide the battle in three to seven days without having to resort to land operations.

They have been trumpeting a great deal in this manner; however, what happened was a completely different matter. Their air power has completely failed to undermine Iraq's steadfastness. What happened was that their calculations of three to seven days extended to more than a month. This means that their air forces have failed badly to achieve the objectives contemplated by their evil souls. As they failed in their aerial raids on Iraq, they will face another, more severe failure when their ground forces turn into an easy morsel for Iraqi firepower and hands. Thus, the bodies of the aggressors will be carried in endless convoys of coffins.

This, brothers, means that what the U.S.-Atlanticist aggressors and hypocrite Arabs call a blitzkrieg with minor costs will turn into a long, hard, and costly war, as happened to their cruel air campaign. When the aggressors wager on a blitzkrieg, they are in fact wagering on their loss. They will see how their plans on paper will be contradicted by the events of the battle on the ground. Their plans will backfire, and, thanks to Iraqi blows, they will not be able to draw up contingency plans to avoid the inevitable defeat.

The aggressors have also pretended to forget that the Iraqi Army, which is on a mission, is impatiently awaiting the duel with the infidel gathering to turn the expediency they are contemplating into a long, protracted period, making their days harder than their nights. Then, they will be convinced once again of their failed thoughts, poor planning, and illusory designs. They will find that they will not be able to decide the outcome of what they started. The outcome is in the hands of the Iraqi soldiers and the faithful leader, Saddam Husayn. They will find that the Iraqi soldiers are the best for the march toward victory. It is God who grants victory.

Commentary Questions Allies' Combat Readiness

NC2002224591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1817 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: When U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announces on the eve of the fifth week of the war that his ground forces are ready for combat, one has a right to ask: Where were all these forces all this time, when the war, as the American secretary knows, began a long time ago? Is it true that Cheney's ground forces and those of his allies were waiting for their air forces, which are waging the war separately, to begin their operations? What was the effect of the air attack, which lasted all these weeks, to make the U.S. secretary of defense believe the chiefs of staff in his Army and the armies of his allies when they said the ground was ready and the time was right to confront the Iraqi army? Does Cheney really have the definite word that what his aircraft and the aircraft of his allies did inside Iraq prepared the way for the ground attack?

No U.S. Administration official has anything definite about the extent of the alleged losses the American aircraft have inflicted on the colossal Iraqi Army and military machine. This, despite the fact that they are at least certain about the human and material losses they have inflicted on civilians. It is no honor for criminal Bush and his criminal defense secretary that their aircraft have inflicted these losses on the Iraqi people. The contradictions we hear every day and every hour about the assistance provided by this or that member of this unholy alliance altogether make these reports and information incorrect and unreliable. It is not Iraq that says this, but some members of this satanic alliance itself. We say this and raise these questions not because we doubt the intentions of the U.S. Administration to launch an aggression against our people and Army, but because we know that the postponement by the U.S. Administration and its defense secretary of what they termed the hour of resolution has taken place and is taking place for reasons unrelated to the moment the U.S. Administration considers appropriate.

Under the policies and dimensions of the American aggression against Iraq there is no appropriate moment for the aggression armies. The million fighters of Iraq's lions lurking on the confrontation land in the southern part of the homeland will choose the appropriate moment the American administration is talking about; it is nonexistent except in the minds of the decisionmakers in the White House. This moment is nonexistent on the Iraqi calendar. The forces of criminal Cheney will have to get organized sooner or later to wage a battle in which it will not be up to them to choose the appropriate or inappropriate moment. Then the bloodbath the American Administration wants to prepare for its soldiers will have been appropriately prepared, even if the circumstances of the aggression demand that the battle arena be extended to cover all the infidel group taking part in the aggression. When the hour comes, the criminals will know "that they tarried not but an hour." [part of Koranic verse]

Responses to Soviet Peace Initiative Cited

Shamir Notes 'Dangerous' Elements

TA2202074191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Here is the first official reaction from Jerusalem to the Soviet peace initiative accepted by Iraq: It would be very dangerous for the State of Israel if Saddam Husayn remained in power with a vast part of his army intact, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated a few minutes ago, addressing a Bonds delegation.

[Begin Shamir recording—in English] We support, we fully support, the policy and leadership of the President of the United States, George Bush, but we can say now that it would be very bad and dangerous for us if Saddam Husayn remained in power in Iraq with a substantial part of his huge army still intact. [end recording]

Soviet Discusses U.S. Concerns

TA2202121491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1115 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Report on telephone interview with Yuriy Gremitskikh, deputy chief of Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Administration, by Yaron Ben-'Ami "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Yuriy Gremitskikh, who represents the official Soviet policy, is trying hard to make it clear that the USSR has not been attempting to drive a wedge between the coalition members or to establish a second coalition:

[Gremitskikh, in English throughout] We are together with the United States, Great Britain, and other countries in the great coalition for peace in the Middle East.

[Ben-'Ami, in English] But don't you think the fact that....

[Gremitskikh, interrupting] We are not developing another coalition.

[Ben-'Ami] Another noteworthy point is that Gremitskikh does not regard the initiative as a bilateral issue, pitching the United States against the Soviet Union. The United States has not rejected the initiative, he said. There are disagreements, which is legitimate. This is the name of the game, and disagreements can be worked out.

Gremitskikh refuses to disclose specific details of the initiative: We still have to convince governments and people; we will have to wait awhile. Give us a few more hours, just a few more hours, he says.

[Gremitskikh] Please wait a few hours; please wait these few hours.

Soviet on Meaning, Prospects of Offer

TA2202062091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0420 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Report on telephone interview with Sergey Grigoryev, Gorbachev spokesman, by foreign affairs editor Gid'on Remez on 22 February; all remarks by Grigoryev recorded in English, followed by Remez' translation]

[Text] [Remez] I spoke with Sergey Grigoryev just 30 minutes ago and caught him between interviews with U.S. television stations trying to receive details from him about the agreement that has been achieved. Therefore, he could speak only briefly. Let me stress that he made the comments to the Voice of Israel; he knows they are directed at the Israeli public. It remains to be seen whether these are the same remarks that were made to the Iraqis and the Americans. In any event, I am citing his remarks verbatim. First, because there was not much time at our disposal, I posed to him the question that most concerns Israeli citizens: Does the cease-fire the Soviets and Iraqis agreed upon include a halt to the firing of missiles at Israel.

[Grigoryev] Of course, of course. I think so. It involves all kinds of cease-fire.

[Remez] What guarantees is Israel given against an Iraqi attack in the future?

[Grigoryev] I think so. I think this is meant from the very beginning. And what do I think for the future? We foresee a security system in the Gulf area which will not see Iraq armed, which will rather see Iraq disarmed, posing no threat to its neighbors, both in the Gulf area and in the Middle East.

[Remez] In other words, I asked, do you accept the U.S. demand that the Iraqis who leave Kuwait withdraw without their arms?

[Grigoryev] Well, they would like to withdraw, and I think the most important thing is to make sure that they withdraw now. The process of the disarming can be discussed later, but the important thing now is to make sure that they go, that they withdraw from Kuwait, that Kuwait's independence is restored, and they stop any attacks against their neighbors, as close to them as a little bit farther, like Israel is.

[Remez] Nonetheless, if—as published in your plan—sanctions are already lifted after Iraq withdraws part of its Army—two-thirds of it, to be precise—from Kuwait, what incentive will there be for Iraq to complete the withdrawal?

[Grigoryev] Now I'll elaborate: What it means is that some of the essentials foreseen by the resolutions would be lifted, but not all of them. The major sanctions will stay until the complete withdrawal.

[Remez] Grigoryev said the Soviets are also insisting not only that the foreign forces be evacuated from Kuwait, but that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government be reinstated. I asked him: Do you have any signal from the Americans that they will also see this as a basis for ending the war?

[Grigoryev] Well, I think that what is involved here is a lot of elaboration for both sides, a lot of consultations, and it will take some time for the Americans to come out with conclusions about this. But it seems to me that, providing there will be more guarantees given by Saddam Husayn, and providing there will be more involvement in the process of verification, as well as guarantees of unconditional withdrawal, I think it is quite possible that the American side might also agree with the plan.

Shamir Interviewed on Gulf War, Peace Prospects

TA2102184591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1633 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem from the "Meeting" program, date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ganor] All the information that has come in so far indicates that the United States is determined to launch a ground operation against Iraq. Does the information you have corroborate that?

[Shamir] I get all my information from the Voice of Israel.

[Ganor] That is not enough. No doubt the prime minister has other sources of information.

[Shamir] I have full faith in that source. I have additional information, but I rely on the Voice of Israel.

[Ganor] Are that radio's assessments correct?

[Shamir] Usually.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, will the launching of a ground operation leave Israel without a means of reacting to Iraq?

[Shamir] We are not eager to retaliate. Israel has no ideology or policy of retaliation. We act according to the interests of the State of Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] Is it in our interest not to react?

[Shamir] It is in our interest sometimes to act one way, sometimes not to act at all, and sometimes to act still differently. There is no state interest that calls for automatic reaction always.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, assuming a ground operation does take place, will this find Israel in its current situation, namely without active involvement in the war?

[Shamir] From our point of view, we are not involved. If you ask the Iraqis, we were the first ones to be involved. This, of course, is not true. We are not active participants in this war. We are being attacked, we are being bombed, our civilian population is being attacked without any provocation, but as for military activity, we are not involved.

[Ganor] Until when?

[Shamir] I think we are very near the end, but there is no principle or certainty that we will not act when we find it necessary.

[Ganor] What must take place before Israel reacts? Are we waiting for a chemical attack? Are we waiting for attacks....

[Shamir, interrupting] We are not waiting for anything; a situation may arise, however, in which we must intervene, in which we may be forced to intervene, and we are ready for every eventuality.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, you said we are close to the end. What end? The end of the state of war through a political offer such as the Soviet proposal?

[Shamir] I think that we anticipate the end of the Iraqi threat to our safety and well-being, and to the security of the entire region. We expect the elimination of this danger to the region and to all the people in the region.

[Ganor] Through political or military means?

[Shamir] I am talking about the goal. I find it difficult at this moment to believe that this can be achieved through political means, and I say this with great sorrow.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, should the land operation really take place, will it increase the chemical threat to Israel?

[Shamir] It does not depend on us, so I cannot assess it. After all, nothing that has been carried out against Israel so far has had any logical basis, and therefore it is difficult to foresee anything in this field.

[Ganor] But will it break Israel's tacit vow not to react?

[Shamir] Of course, any extraordinary step will obligate us to reassess our actions.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, what is your reaction to the Soviet proposal to end the hostilities and in fact to extricate Saddam Husayn from the defeat he should expect?

[Shamir] I am not familiar with all the specifics of the Soviet initiative. According to the U.S. President, clearly the Soviet Union is acting according to the Security Council resolutions and is not deviating from the political path of the United States.

[Ben-Menahem] But still, according to what has been published, it advocates a certain linkage [predeeding word in English here and elsewhere] between the Israeli-Arab conflict and....

[Shamir, interrupting] We clearly oppose any linkage whatsoever and do not think there is any room or need for it.

[Ganor] From Israel's standpoint, how would you like to see the war end? With what results?

[Shamir] The war, as I said before, should remove the threat and danger. After all, these threats to Israel and the implementation, to a certain degree, of these threats came without Israel having done anything to instigate or prompt them. This was a war of terror against Israel, without Israel having raised a finger to cause it. Even before the war, Saddam Husayn threatened to destroy Israel and to incinerate it. I therefore think that the war should end with the recognition by all the countries in this region that Israel cannot be destroyed or incinerated. Israel's existence is a fact, and this must be recognized. They should try to live together with Israel, meaning live in peace with Israel.

[Ganor] But the demonstrations we have been witnessing in the various Arab capitals seem to prove the opposite?

[Shamir] That is something I really regret. Unfortunately, in the Middle East now the incitement is of unprecedented dimensions. The zeal behind it is something we have not witnessed before. It feeds the hatred and the desire to destroy and eliminate the State of Israel. We are very sorry to see that. After all, it is completely unrealistic. All the nations and people who blindly follow this incitement, one of these days, and I hope it will be soon, will realize—and this realization may be painful for them—that this is an impossibility and that Israel will be in this region forever. They should get that through their heads.

There have been many attempts to harm Israel in various ways, but they have always failed. Those took the form of military wars, waves of terrorism, an economic boycott, and political onslaughts. Now they are trying to do it with missiles. I do not know what other methods of attempting to eliminate us we should expect. They will see that everything will come to naught; it will be proved that the reality of Israel—an inseparable part of the Middle East—cannot be eliminated. It is necessary, once and for all, to accept that fact and draw the necessary conclusions.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, Minister Sharon said last night that Israel should use its ability to remove the Iraqi missiles if the United States is unable to do so, and he added—and I quote: We must not stake the fate of the nation. Is Minister Sharon right?

[Shamir] I agree that a nation's future cannot be gambled, but other steps could also be construed as a gamble. I think that our starting point and outlook are the same: maintaining Israel's safety and well-being. I am convinced that we are doing this in the best possible way. Yet if one day, or at a certain hour, we learn that we should act differently, we will not hesitate to act differently. We are not captives of dogmas.

[Ben-Menahem] As for Minister Sharon's televised interview on the matter, what have you to say about that?

[Shamir] I am not a television critic, nor do I criticize the press or the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

[Ganor, laughing] Mr. Shamir, have the missile attacks on the Israeli home front not shaken Israel's longstanding security and political thesis about the need for defensible borders and strategic depth?

[Shamir] Absolutely not; on the contrary, it has further emphasized the need for broad security perimeters. Israel cannot be destroyed with missiles, as we have seen. There is one way to liquidate another entity, and that is occupation—as Kuwait saw a few months ago. This is a serious attempt to liquidate a country, to erase it from the map. Now someone wishes to duplicate that attempt and repeat it in Israel. That is not something that can be done by missiles, it can only be done by way of a land invasion. Therefore Israel needs broad perimeters, defensible borders, territories that can be defended, and a defensible stretch of land. That is proved further with every incident.

[Ben-Menahem] Does the rest of the world understand this?

[Shamir] I think that in view of the events of the past few months the world will understand it better. The question is whether it will draw conclusions from these events, but there is no doubt that there is currently greater understanding of Israel's security requirements and of possible future threats to its security.

[Ganor] Does our friend the United States also understand this, despite the incidents that have somewhat soured relations between the two capitals during the past few weeks?

[Shamir] We have not discussed these broad, fundamental issues with the United States during the past few months, but it is known that there are sometimes certain exchanges and occasional disagreements with the United States on these issues. We will discuss them when the time comes.

[Ganor] Is this—that is to say, the question of the strategic depth—something that you expect to remain contentious?

[Shamir] Possibly, possibly. After all, there are some things that are not resolved even after a long time and over which each party firmly stands its ground.

[Ganor] At any rate, did the message you received last night from the U.S. President point to this?

[Shamir] No, it did not mention any such thing; it discussed the events that occur here.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, the foreign minister told the Knesset last night that the policy of sitting idly by is a sure recipe for political damage. Is Israel politically ready for the day after the war?

[Shamir] First of all, one should never sit on the sidelines. Sometimes people sit, but it is always necessary to do and act. [laughter] Israel is ready, as far as ideas, thinking, and conclusions are concerned. Preparatory work, however, is always necessary. Reasons and explanations for actions should always be drawn up in accordance with the circumstances. Things must be updated according to the latest developments. Sometimes another angle can be added. We do that.

[Ganor] Have the working teams already started to think?

[Shamir] There are teams and, you will be surprised to hear, they also think. They think constantly, but of course, things must be written out and formulated. I hope that when the time comes we will be ready and equipped.

[Ben-Menahem] Will there be changes in the Israeli Government's peace initiative?

[Shamir] Israel is adhering to its May 1989 peace initiative.

[Ben-Menahem] With additions?

[Shamir] We see no need to change anything at this point. Perhaps with time, or when negotiations are conducted and during the course of talks, there will be room for that, as changes sometimes occur in one way or another.

[Ganor] Does this peace initiative mesh with the new regional order the United States wants to establish?

[Shamir] This new order is an abstract term. No one has defined it yet. It is the expression of some desire or mood. Everyone feels free to fill it with content. We will come with ours.

[Ganor] What will we bring to incorporate into the new order?

[Shamir] Our May 1989 peace initiative, for example. It includes all the components we would like to see in a peaceful settlement in our region, either permanently or temporarily.

[Ben-Menahem] Does it need to be refreshed? Is there a need, perhaps, to update it somewhat?

[Shamir] Look, there is no point in looking for novelties for the sake of novelty. I say that if there is some kind of understanding from the other side or from the other parties, if arguments begin, if someone questions something, we will talk, we will listen, and we will react.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, what did you have in mind some time ago when you said Israel plans to return to the peace process as soon as the war in the Gulf ends?

[Shamir] It will be possible to reach decisions or conclusions about such plans only after the end of the war. Today, a careful exchange of opinions is possible; one can hold noncommittal talks. Practical discussions, however, can only be held after we know what the region will look like after the war is over.

[Ganor] What Arab countries would you place atop the list of those with which you would wish to enter into peace negotiations?

[Shamir] We draw no distinction between countries. We say that we are prepared to talk to all the Arab countries without exception. The order in which this process will proceed is not important; it depends on developments as well as on the degree of involvement of friends from the outside who will want to participate in the process.

[Ganor] Would you put Saudi Arabia, which is currently on the same side as Israel, at the top of that list of countries?

[Shamir] It depends on that country, first of all. We have no objection to any country. Israel has no opposition to launching a dialogue with Saudi Arabia. That country has not yet taken part in any talks of this nature, but that can change.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, can the waning status of the PLO promote the Israeli peace initiative and, among other things, elections in the territories?

[Shamir] Certainly. It is a very beneficial change, one that can help. We anticipated the decline in the PLO's standing and favored its disappearance from the region and from the deliberations because we were and remain convinced that the PLO is not interested in peace with Israel. It is interested in peace without Israel. It cannot participate in a process in which it is not interested. When the Arabs and the other important elements in the world understand that there is no need to use or highlight the PLO, it will make things much easier.

[Ben-Menahem] But are we prepared? Are you ready to talk to notables from the territories or residents who, during the missile attacks on Israel, went up on the roofs and rejoiced and celebrated?

[Shamir] I did not photograph the people on the roofs, but I presume there are some people in the region with whom dialogue can be held.

[Ganor] The question every Palestinian Arab in the territories currently asks himself, for which he expects an answer from you, the prime minister of Israel, is whether you truly want to talk to him.

[Shamir] First of all, we must sit down at the table and talk. This is what I say. First of all, it is necessary to talk, but not with rocks or knives. Much can be won from

Israel through negotiations, persuasion, and direct and free language. It is first of all necessary to realize full well that Israel exists and that it will continue to exist in this region. Therefore, if we want to be in this area and live here, it is necessary to enter into a process of negotiations. Israel has always, throughout the years, argued this. We have also presented a framework for that, as far back as in the Camp David agreements. Now, again, in the 1989 initiative, we repeated it. Therefore, the frameworks exist. We must sit down at the table and talk. Of course, talks must also be held with the Arab states. These go together, and there cannot be one without the other because the picture must be complete. The conflict is not just between Israel and the Palestinians, it is also between Israel and the Arab world—that is to say, mainly the Arab countries.

[Ganor] When you say talking to the Arab countries, do you also mean Syria, despite its conditions?

[Shamir] I said: all the countries, each one of them, without exception.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, the war has not avoided the Arab home front. Have the Israeli Arabs reacted as you expected?

[Shamir] I never indulged in guesswork, although I do have my opinions and impressions. I see no need to grade them today. I say that if they want peace and arrangements—and by that I mean everyone, the entire Arab world—they must forget the past and come and sit with a willing heart and the firm desire to reach arrangements.

[Ben-Menahem] Still, what do you think of the reactions of the Arab citizens of Israel?

[Shamir] As I said, I do not give marks.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, let us go back to the issue of promoting peace with the Arab countries, with Syria, for example. How would you promote peace with Damascus?

[Shamir] I will say nothing before we sit down and talk. We want to hear that Syria is willing to sit down and start direct negotiations with the State of Israel in order to discuss issues of joint interest to both countries. So far we have not heard such things from that country.

[Ganor] Yet the messages you have been receiving from a third party seem to indicate as much, at least ostensibly?

[Shamir] Unfortunately, that is not yet the case; but I have not despaired.

[Ben-Menahem] Have we anything to offer the Syrians should they agree to such negotiations?

[Shamir] The desire for peace. I do not ask more of anyone else. We approach these negotiations with the desire to achieve peace, and that is what we ask and demand of all the other parties. That should be the basis.

[Ben-Menahem] But beyond the desire and the goodwill, Mr. Prime Minister?

[Shamir] That will surface during the deliberations and the talks. If all parties sit down at the table determined not to get up until all problems are jointly resolved to the satisfaction of all—if that is what we decide—we will achieve positive results.

[Ganor] Has Jordan's pro-Iraqi stand during this war changed Israel's position on the need at least to preserve the stability of that monarchy?

[Shamir] There is no stability in any part of the Middle East except Israel. Look at all the Arab countries of today and note what is happening in them. There is no stability. What we see before our eyes is quicksand. There are also doubts with respect to Jordan. Jordan as we see it today is not the Jordan we knew prior to the start of the war. Yet let us wait and see it after the war and talk to the postwar Jordan.

[Ganor] Are you saying that Jerusalem has revised its position toward Amman?

[Shamir] We look, take note of things, and consider them. We would like to hear Jordan.

[Ganor] What would you want to hear from it?

[Shamir] The same: that they want peace with Israel; a quiet border; and a solution to all the common problems, such as problems of water, economics, tourism, and natural resources. We should sit down and settle matters. I think it would not be difficult to reach settlements that will satisfy both them and us.

[Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, one final question: Should we expect a new Middle East at the end of the Gulf war?

[Shamir] I hope so. After all, passions became so heated during this war and before it that I presume that once the storm is over, things and people will cool down and logic will prevail. Logic will start dictating the behavior of the residents of this region. It will then be possible to sit down sensibly, engage in some serious thinking, and hold substantive discussions on how we can live together, how we can arrange our common lives. This is a shared interest and desire; it is good for all of us. If we reach this, I very much hope that we will also achieve the desired results and make progress.

[Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for being our guest.

Minister Levi Comments on Various Gulf Aspects

Views U.S. Aid, Response to Attacks

TA2202100691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 22 Feb 91 pp 6, 18

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shilon] What is our moral justification for presenting the United States with a bill for the damage caused by this war? Had we needed to do the job ourselves, it would have cost us much more.

[Levi] You are right that had we needed to fight Iraq on our own, the task would have been difficult and more expensive. We must hold prior internal consultations on this matter before going to the Americans like beggars or appearing to be demanding our due. It is an issue that calls for great care.

[Shilon] I detect in your remarks criticism of the request for economic assistance from the United States.

[Levi] Call it what you like. We must be careful on that subject in terms of the timing, the comments, and the way it is presented.

[Shilon] Do you still believe that Israel is the most important U.S. ally in the Middle East, as you said in our previous interview four months ago?

[Levi] Certainly. Only such a courageous ally of the United States could act as we have done. We make it easier for the United States by not hampering the coalition that is so important to it in winning the war.

[Shilon] Was the restraint not a mistake from the aspect of the State of Israel's security? We continue to be exposed to missile threats.

[Levi] We are on the threshold of the war's end, and we have to weigh our profits against our losses. We did not lose anything.

[Shilon] If that is so, is there still any room for an Israeli response to the missile attacks, as the defense minister promised: "We will react in any event?"

[Levi] I do not accept the phrase "in any event." Each situation must be considered on merit. The approach we have adopted so far has not disappointed us.

[Levi] Is there a possibility that the war will end without our punishing the Iraqis?

[Levi] If the war ends in Saddam Husayn's defeat, there is no room for Israel to try to do something only in order to punish him or prove to somebody that we have not lost our deterrent capability. Our lack of response is in itself a reaction that is a measure of our strength.

[Shilon] Have the Gulf war and the missiles fired at Israel pulled the rug out from under the claims about the need for strategic depth and holding on to territories in order to defend the country?

[Levi] It is an optical illusion and even a mirage to think so. With all the sorrow over what the missiles are causing us, they are incapable of defeating us. Had the territories not been in our hands, however, and had the Iraqi Army entered Jordan, then every Israeli household would have been in direct danger. All that is not meant to rule out the ongoing need to promote our political initiative.

Shilon] Has the Israeli Government's political initiative not become obsolete? Who will take it seriously now?

[Levi] No. In fact the Gulf war only proves to the world how correct we have been up to now in the political positions we have adopted. Israel today is calling for an end to the state of war with the Arab countries, for direct negotiations with them, and for the implementation of the Israeli initiative to solve the Palestinian problem. The PLO, in the wake of the Gulf war and its support for Saddam Husayn, must step down from the international stage.

[Shilon] Do you believe that after the Gulf war, the United States will agree to go back to the point at which the political process between us and the Palestinians was interrupted?

[Levi] I am not asking to return to any original point. There is an Israeli initiative, and all the superfluous patches added to it must be removed. It is an initiative that has a real chance of being implemented.

[Shilon] In fact, you have not changed at all in recent months and in the past year. The "yes" you are saying to Baker today is in fact the same "yes" you gave him a year ago. In other words, now as well as then, you are saying "no" to him.

[Levi] I say "yes" to Baker and "no" to the rider the PLO wanted to add to our peace initiative. The real change is that today our concept is better understood by the Americans.

[Shilon] The bottom line is that you are not even considering the possibility of new ideas or a new Israeli initiative after the Gulf war. Is that correct?

[Levi] I see no wisdom in initiating a move at this time that will, in the final analysis, prove fatal to the State of Israel.

[Shilon] I would like a direct answer to the question.

[Levi] If it is proven beyond a doubt that the political move will not lead to a Palestinian state, there is room for renewed discussion to clarify the issues under dispute, in order to form new understandings with the United States and the Arab states. I do not wish to be in a situation in which we are being led. We want the political initiative to be in our hands. [passage omitted]

Urges End to Saddam's 'Extortion'

TA2102175191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi after his meeting with representatives of the U.S. Sephardic Federation delegation, by Yaron Deqel, at the Foreign Ministry on 21 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Deqel] Minister Levi, do you think that Saddam Husayn's forceful speech today actually spells the end of the Soviet compromise initiative?

[Levi] I have no idea what the USSR was seeking. Perhaps it was looking for a ladder to give him so that he can climb down from the tall tree he is in. After all, he is a long-time, major client of the Soviet Union. It may indicate some sort of view that, after the aggression, that country thinks it will be able to tame the aggressor. Yet it turns out that he mocks the entire world by launching his aggression and by turning human beings into hostages so that European leaders come and bow to him. This is the real truth. He wanted that to happen before he amnesties these hostages. He later carried on his actions in spite of all the offers that were made.

Today we are back at square one, facing the same type of extortion to which the world must put an end.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 21 February carries a report by Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen, who reports that Levi also said, "It is ironic that the one who talks about the Palestinian people is the very person who invaded a sister country, a country which extended aid to him in his war against Iran. He expelled the Kuwaitis and has no right to talk about rights." Levi says he hopes the "Iraqi people will wake up and put an end to the suffering and terror which that so-called leader promises them."]

On Middle East Peace Process

TA2102205391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Eli Nisan at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on 21 February—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Foreign Minister David Levi, what is your reaction to reports published in Jordan yesterday stating that the Jordanian king said he would be willing to launch negotiations with Israel under international auspices as was stipulated in the London agreement of 1987?

[Levi] Israel has a position, and this position is that whoever wants to make peace with you has to sit face to face with you. If a leader, the head of a state, does not sit down with you, then what kind of example is he giving his people, the ones you want to live in peace with. The proof of this was that when al-Sadat came and sat down face to face with us, we achieved peace. I hope the day is not too far away when the leaders of the Arab countries will understand that Israel desires peace and that they will extend their hand toward Israel's extended hand without preconditions for direct negotiations. After all, the peoples of our region have suffered, they deserve to experience better days. Let us hope this will be the last war.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, last week you came out with a declaration that Israel was ready to hold negotiations with Syria without any preconditions. Their answer was that they are willing to hold talks on the condition that all the territories are returned. Do you consider Syria a partner for negotiations under these conditions?

[Levi] That anyone should demand in advance that the results of negotiations tally with his desires as a precondition to launching these negotiations is unprecedented anywhere in the world. Therefore, if they want to conduct negotiations with Israel it must be without any preconditions, either on their part or on our part. Israel is ready for this at any time.

[Nisan] Do you see Syria sitting down at the table with Israel in the future under these conditions?

[Levi] It also should be interested in peace. Its entire economy has been invested in preparing for war. It has pawned its future. How far can one go toward accumulating such an expensive arsenal and for what purpose? We have seen Saddam Husayn and the fate awaiting his people: catastrophe, death, and destruction. What kind of message is this? It will take an entire generation after this war—if the Iraqi people will even be able to rebuild what has been destroyed as a result of megolomania and the craving for war and conquest. I say the same thing to Syria. All the peoples in this region deserve a new, different epoch, a new hope of peace in order to build. This peace will only be achieved face to face in direct negotiations.

[Nisan] Mr. Foreign Minister, you were invited by the EC Council of Ministers to travel to Luxembourg to present Israel's position regarding the EC's proposals to further the process of negotiations in the region. Will you go, and how do you percieve the role of the European Community?

[Levi] This is not the first time that I am going to meet the EC ministers. I will go. This is a mission that must be carried out. We will present Israel's positions as you have heard them. We would want the process that succeeded in Europe: tearing down the walls, resolving problems only through peaceful means, an end to the state of war, rapprochement between East and West.... [changes thought] We saw the joy of the people. The Middle East also deserves this. If the emergence of this reality is helped along, this will constitute a great service for peace. I will explain Israel's position, and I am optimistic.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, do you also see a role in the near future for the Soviet Union in the process of peace negotiations in the region?

[Levi] Look, if you were to ask me what the role is of nations, countries, and superpowers in the future of the Middle East, I would say that it is to influence matters. To influence the Arab states and to tell them that there have been enough wars. Israel is ready to sit down with you, it has extended its hand to peace for years. We insist that there be no more wars in the Middle East, and the best way to achieve this is to convince them to sit down and talk peace with Israel in order to secure peace.

[Nisan] And do you think the Soviet Union will succeed in carrying off this challenge?

[Levi] You said it is a challenge, and it is also a test. It must prove, just as the United States is currently proving—and Baker told me he approached the Arab leaders and asked them to end the state of war with Israel—that if the Soviet Union also thus fulfills its obligation, it will contribute to peace.

Media Adviser Dani Nave Discusses Gulf Situation

Similar Views Shared on Iraqi War Machine

TA2202083491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0625 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Interview with Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissowitz] Be honest: When you heard the report quoting a senior U.S. official who stated a short time ago that the United States cannot accept the Soviet peace initiative, did you not give a sigh of relief? Though we must point out that the report quoted an unnamed official, if it is true, is it a reason to sigh in relief?

[Nave] The U.S. position is quite clear. The Americans spelled out their conditions for ending the war even before the Iraqis gave their answer to the Soviets. In the last few days, we have heard quite a few skeptical statements from Washington on the issue. When all is said and done, however, I believe Jerusalem's outlook does not differ from that of Washington in everything pertaining to the Iraqi war machine.

[Zissowitz] It would seem that today the United States is in a less comfortable position to reject the initiative than it was two or three days ago.

[Nave] Maybe. I do not think it is my job to analyze the U.S. position. I would rather wait and hear the official Washington position.

[Zissowitz] Should we not explain the entire situation, as well as Israel's interests, to the United States?

[Nave] The United States is very well aware not just of what is happening in Kuwait, but also of what is happening in western Iraq. U.S. planes continue to operate day and night in western Iraq against the missile threat to Israel. The Americans are very well aware of the significance of the missile threat facing the State of Israel, and they need no reminders. Furthermore, we are in constant contact with the Americans as part of the effort to put an end to this threat. [passage omitted]

[Zissowitz] Will Israel insist, to the extent it can, that all the weapons amassed by Iraq—particularly the weapons removed from Kuwait—be handed over to the allies?

[Nave] The political contacts are not being held by Israel, of course, but by the United States. As I stated earlier, it seems to me that Jerusalem and Washington have similar outlooks. Up until the eve of the Iraqi invasion into Kuwait, Israel seemed to be the only country cautioning against the Iraqi threat and its implications regarding peace in the region and the world at large, but the lesson seems to have been learned in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Today, everybody understands and is aware of the threat posed to the entire world by the Iraqi war machine.

[Zissowitz] As far as we know, has this war machine been hit so badly that it will no longer pose a threat to Israel? If the political move culminates in some compromise, will the threat to Israel continue to exist?

[Nave] We know that the Iraqi war machine—both its conventional and nonconventional weapons—was very badly hit in the air strikes by U.S. and allied planes. At the same time, whatever the cease-fire may turn out to be, the real test at the end of this war will be the armament of Iraq. We know that Iraq attained its vast capability before the war thanks to the help of many countries, not just in East but also in West Europe; this is a fact. The real test, therefore, will be to see whether the European firms and countries have learned their lesson or will help Iraq regain its capability. Israel and everybody seeking stability in this region should hope the lesson has been learned.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 22 February carries a related report by Amir Fink, who quotes Nave as saying that "there has been no U.S. promise to Israel that the removal of the Iraqi missile threat would be included in any agreement with the Iraqis, but this is understood. The real test of Saddam Husayn lies in whether he fires missiles at Israel, and despite all the political contacts, Iraq fired missiles both at Israel and Saudi Arabia this week. Therefore, as far as Israel is concerned, the war continues, there is as yet no cease-fire, and the missile threat persists."]

Comments on Saddam Speech

TA2102202291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1748 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, by political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good evening Dani Nave.

[Nave] Good evening.

[Golan] Did you have a chance to listen to Saddam Husayn's speech with Defense Minister Moshe Arens?

[Nave] I did not hear the speech with him, but I listened to it, and although I do not speak Arabic I received the translation a short while later.

[Golan] And what was the reaction?

[Nave] We see that Saddam Husayn has still not made his position any more flexible than in the Iraqi proposal of last Friday. This constitutes no change in the framework or the parameters already announced by Iraq. As far as we are concerned, it appears that the war will indeed continue with all its accompanying ramifications.

[Golan] We are facing quite a serious dilemma. What do we prefer to see: his presenting a more flexible stand, withdrawing from Kuwait but remaining in power with at least part of his war machine; or do we prefer that the war continue, with the resultant danger of missile attacks—perhaps even missiles bearing chemical warheads—against us?

[Nave] We are not discussing what is in Israel's interest. We are talking about what is perhaps in the whole world's interest. Everyone today knows just what a threat is posed by the Iraqi war potential, both conventional and nonconventional. This of course necessitated action and the Americans did so. Each passing day weakens this war machine and lessens Saddam Husayn's capability. Each passing day brings us closer to the day Saddam Husayn is defeated. Each passing day is a day in which Saddam Husayn's ability to threaten not just Israel, but the whole region and perhaps the entire world.... [changes thought] Each passing day brings us additional good news. He is dealt additional blows. Therefore I think that it is in the interest of the international community, not just Israel's, that this war end with the Iraqi war machine as small as possible.

[Golan] Yes, that was a clear answer. Now, in recent days there has been a feeling that we have received bona fide reports that Saddam Husayn has the capability to launch missiles carrying chemical warheads. This capability seems apparent and more certain.

[Nave] There has been no new information over the last few days. We have, for some time, acted upon the working assumption that there is a possibility that Saddam Husayn will also attempt to use chemical weapons against us. We cannot be 100 percent certain that he indeed has chemical warheads for his missiles; we must assume, however, that this capability exists and therefore the Israeli public has been prepared and ready for any eventuality for over a month. No further preparations are required at this time, as we have been at a high level of alert and readiness for a long time. The public is asked to continue obeying all the rules and not ignore instructions. We certainly know tonight, following the Iraqi announcment, that the war continues, the threat to Israel from western Iraq continues. If we move from words to action, Saddam Husayn launched another missile at Israel just two days ago, so we must maintain our readiness.

[Golan] That is true in terms of the readiness and protection of the home front. Yesterday, however, we saw Minister Sharon on television calling for the first time in public—but he has been doing this in the cabinet almost since the beginning of the war—for Israeli action if the United States does not succeed in eliminating the launchers and missiles in western Iraq.

[Nave] Arye, I am sure that you will agree with me that I am not in a position to answer or react to this or that statement made by a cabinet minister. Nevertheless, the position of the Israeli Government is known, and the Israeli Goverment has already declared several times, whether through the prime minister or the defense minister, that we have the ability to make a significant contribution to eliminating this threat. To carry this out, of course, we need to coordinate with the United States. The government's position is known and I would not like to add anything or react to statements made by a cabinet minister. That is not my job.

[Golan] So, to sum up, please explain a statement made by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, whom you advise, regarding the intelligence service. Will the intelligence service need to do some soul-searching after the war? There were reports, and consequent clarifications and denials.

[Nave] What was said was that soul-searching was called for in the sense that a process of drawing conclusions is necessary in every field and on every matter after a war is over. The defense minister clearly stressed that his statements do not constitute any criticism of Israeli intelligence, but the contrary. We can congratulate ourselves that Israeli intelligence issued better assessments of the Iraqi threat than any other intelligence service in the world. Just 10 days before Iraq invaded Kuwait, the defense minister was in Washington together with the head of Army Intelligence, Major General Amnon Shahaq. There was one major issue on the agenda: the Iraqi threat. And we were the ones that warned the whole world through our intelligence services of the danger posed by the Iraqi enemy and the Iraqi war machine. The defense minister did not cricitize Israeli intelligence, and whoever tried to portray his statements as criticism took them out of context.

[Golan] So where will we need to conduct some soul-searching?

[Nave] I imagine that after a war is over, a process of analysis of what we did well and what we could have done better is called for. This is natural and necessary in all fields pertaining to this war.

[Golan] Thank you, Dani Nave, adviser to the defense minister.

Instability Foreseen if Saddam Not Removed

TA2202053991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0445 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Interview with political correspondent Arye Golan by Hayim Zissovitz—live]

[Text] [Zissovitz] Washington is reportedly studying the Soviet proposal accepted by Iraq, as is Jerusalem. Is Jerusalem examining it with a certain measure of concern?

[Golan] It is examining it with caution. Just as we heard from our Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that Washington officials have reservations—some to a lesser degree than others: President Bush may have more reservations than Secretary Baker—so do officials in Jerusalem have their reservations.

Political circles in Jerusalem are saying this morning that the Iraqi threat—which includes Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn and his war machine—must be removed. If this threat is not removed, there will again be threats, instability, and war. If Saddam emerges from this war with a political achievement and with a vast part of his Army intact, political circles in Jerusalem say the entire Middle East will be in trouble. Any cease-fire that does not unequivocally spell a military and political defeat for Saddam Husayn—a defeat which is also visible to the Arabs—will create a serious problem, and we may again be faced with instability, threats, and perhaps even worse than that.

[Zissovitz] Jerusalem has a problem with its reaction to the proposal, because it does not want to come across as a warmonger. It does not want to be seen as pushing Washington to reject the Soviet proposal; there is no doubt, however, that this initiative—particularly because it does not guarantee the removal of Saddam Husayn—should arouse concern in Jerusalem.

[Golan] Absolutely, and that is probably the case, even if officials and decisionmakers are not saying as much. Officials have been analyzing the future Soviet role in the region. People I have been talking to say the Soviets want to emerge as the mediators who saved Saddam Husayn from the gallows. A part of the Arab world will remain under their aegis, as was the case during the cold war. In such an event, Jerusalem officials are saying this morning, the competition between the superpowers will be rekindled. By definition, this competition will encourage arms purchases and other things and will definitely hinder the chances of attaining stability in this conflict-torn region.

[Zissovitz] Do you foresee Jerusalem making some move, such as political talks, and sending a direct or indirect message to Washington expressing its position?

[Golan] I do not think so, although messages are being sent all the time. The statements of the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense ministers are also messages. I would like to remind you that Shamir stated a few weeks ago that if Saddam Husayn is not removed from the stage there will be no calm in this area. This is the gist of the message he delivers to visiting U.S. and other officials he meets in his office. If the war ends with Saddam Husayn in power and in possession of what remains of his war machine, Israel will definitely not be pleased. Presumably, if we see it that way, so does Washington.

Shahal Presents Plan to Labor Party Bureau

Supports Palestinian State

*TA2102160791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 21 Feb 91*

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau meeting was originally planned to be a routine affair, possibly even a sleepy session. Yet Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Shahal opened the session with a bombshell by expressing, for the first time in public, support for the establishment of a Palestinian state. This is what he said in the meeting: I say openly that I'll be damned if I can understand the basis for the concept that maintained saying no to a Palestinian state. I definitely say yes to it. If it leads to a peace agreement between us and the Palestinians and the Arab countries, then there is a chance. Later, MK Shahal repeated his statements:

[Begin Shahal recording] As time passes and in the absence of a political arrangement to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, time works against us, so that what we could have gotten yesterday we will be unable to get today or tomorrow. I therefore presented a sober, realistic plan at whose center are two elements: the solution of the Palestinian problem involving recognition of the Palestinian entity, linked with Jordan in some form—including a Palestinian state—provided that the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist and that the permanent arrangements clearly stipulate that there are no additional demands, including the right of return. The second element in the plan involves security arrangements, including Israel's permanent borders, and regional arrangements with six regional countries including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. [end recording]

As a side remark to this dovish plan presented by MK Shahal, it should be borne in mind that he is one of the people who regard themselves as candidate for Labor Party chairman. It would be interesting to see how this position might influence the support Shahal will manage to garner in the race for the job.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives for Talks on Gulf War

NC2102144091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short working visit to Jordan. The visit is part of a tour of the region within the framework of the efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

His excellency was accorded an official welcome. His Majesty King Husayn headed those who welcomed him. Also participating in the welcome was His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the Senate president, the House of Representative speaker, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, his highness the chief chamberlain, ministers, the chief of staff, the Public Security Department director, senior civilian and military officials, members of the Arab diplomatic corps, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

Briefed on 'Fateful Conditions'

NC2102224891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, accompanied his illustrious guest, His Excellency General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, on a visit this afternoon to the Armed Forces General Command.

They were received by Chief of Staff Gen. Fathi Abu-Talib, his aides, the commander of the Royal Air Force, and the inspector general.

His majesty the supreme commander met with his illustrious guest in the general command. Present were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty's political adviser; and Chief of Staff Gen. Fathi Abu-Talib.

His majesty the supreme commander and his illustrious guest then heard a military briefing on the Armed Forces' organization, mission, and duties in defending the homeland along the longest confrontation line with the enemy and at the forward trench of our nation, and on the possible challenges and dangers in such fateful conditions in the Arab region affecting national and pan-Arab security.

At the end of the briefing, His Excellency Gen. al-Bashir lauded the honorable and courageous stand of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and his majesty's constant endeavors to create a united Arab stand, heal differences between brothers, and spare the region catastrophe and destruction. He also praised the Jordanian Armed Forces and their heroic stand in face of possible challenges and dangers. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With King Husayn

NC2202054991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Last night, Jordan and Sudan held a round of talks at the Royal Hashemite Court, cochaired by His Majesty King Husayn and 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council. The two reviewed late Gulf war developments and efforts to end the war and work a peaceful way out of the dispute. They also discussed brotherly ties between the two countries and explored means to further develop them in all areas. [passage omitted]

Spanish Envoy on EC Stand on PLO, Soviet Plan

NC2202013191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
0925 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, 21 Feb (PETRA)—Ramon Armengod Lopes, Spanish ambassador and representative of Luxembourg, current chairman of the EC, in Jordan, has asserted that the EC countries believe that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue are the source of instability in the region, and that the international community must renew efforts to find a comprehensive, just, and durable solution to the conflict through a well-prepared international conference to be convened at an appropriate time.

In an interview with the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, he said that the EC's stand on the participation of all parties, including the PLO, in the region's peace process is firm and unchanged. He explained that news agency reports about Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos' statement yesterday concerning contacts with the PLO chairman were inaccurate. He pointed out that Poos said in his statement that the EC countries had decided to establish contacts with the foreign ministers of the countries concerned with the Middle East conflict, such as Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and the Arab Maghreb.

Citing the Luxembourg foreign minister, he said that in this context, the EC foreign ministers feel that any high-level contact with the PLO at present is not useful. The Spanish ambassador noted that this does not mean that there will be no contacts with the PLO in future. He stated that these could be held at a lower level through normal communication channels.

The ambassador noted that the opportunity for EC countries and the PLO to get together at any level is still there.

Commenting on the EC countries' position on the Soviet peace plan, he said they had shown interest in President

Mikhail Gorbachev's appeal to Iraqi leaders and particularly welcomed the call for a complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government, in accordance with the EC countries' communique of yesterday.

He said everyone wants to stop the war and to secure peace in the region based on UN resolutions. He stressed that Spain concurs with Jordan in this respect and that any move in this direction will be welcomed.

He said that should Iraq agree to the Soviet peace plan and UN resolutions on the Gulf crisis, it would be in line with EC principles concerning the rights of the countries of the region, including Iraq, to sovereignty and independence.

On the allied bombardment of civilian targets in Iraq, he said his country's position on this matter is clear; in an official statement, it had called for a halt to the shelling.

A news agency had cited the Luxembourg foreign minister as saying at a news conference yesterday that the EC has decided not to meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat because of his pro-Iraq stand in the Gulf crisis.

Islamists Urge Iran To Back Iraq, Fight Israel

LD2102172991 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 21 Feb 91

[All names as received]

[Text] Amman, Feb. 21, IRNA—A mass Islamic gathering in Amman Wednesday night called on the Islamic Republic of Iran and some other Muslim states to send forces to Jordan to liberate Palestine and to help Iraq.

The conference, organized by Hizb al-Tahrir (Islamic Liberation Party) in the Amra Hotel issued a resolution calling on Iran, Libya and Algeria to cut off oil and gas supplies to those countries fighting Iraq.

The resolution called on Iran, Morocco, Pakistan, Algeria and Tunisia to dispatch troops to Jordan in order to liberate Palestine and to help Iraq in the war. The conference called on Islamic movements and organizations in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Turkey to move the people against their rulers for siding with the U.S. against Iraq. It called on the Muslim countries to cut off all ties with the Western countries fighting Iraq.

Speaker after speaker, however, appealed to Iran to drop its neutral stance and take the side of Iraq.

In a fiery speech, Deputy Layth Shubaylat, who recently visited Tehran, said "Iran is called upon more than any country, because it is a Muslim country, to help Iraq."

"It cannot be expected from Iran to be neutral," he stressed amidst shouts of Allah-o-akbar [God is great] by the jampacked hall.

Shubaylat said the late Imam Khomeyni has taught the Muslims that the international order is anti-Islamic and corrupt. Iran should send its forces to Jordan to fight Israel and cut off oil supplies to France, he said.

Salim al-Khuwalidah, a member of the cultural committee of Hizb al-Tahrir, called on Iran and Syria to enter the war at once on the side of Iraq.

The conference noted that Muslim countries are one and that their war and peace is one and that Jihad is now incumbent on every Muslim to fight the U.S.-led alliance.

Several members of Ikhwan (Muslim Brotherhood), including the minister of social developemnt Yusuf al-Adhm, were present in the meeting. An organizer told IRNA that it was the first time Ikhwan members were participating in a meeting organized by Hizb al-Tahrir and it signifies a close cooperation between Islamic Groups in Jordan.

Over 1,000 Muslim activists jammed the big hall and many more were left standing otuside during the 4-hour conference. Participants were asked to offer their opinion in writing before the resolution was drafted.

Ikhwan deputy Yusuf al-Khasnawah called for the attack against Western interests and stressed that Jihad was the only way open for Muslims to defend Iraq and liberate Palestine.

The spokesman for Hizb al-Tahrir, Ata Abu-Arrashtah, called on Muslim armies to fight in Palestine and Iraq, and to prepare the masses militarily to aid the soldiers.

Arrashtah was arrested last month during a meeting at the same hotel when he called for attack against U.S. interests in Jordan. He was set free after a few hours. He called for the expulsion from Jordan of the citizens of those countries that are engaged in war against Iraq.

Sheikh 'Ali Ayya of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (ISF) told the gathering that one million Algerians had registered to go and fight against the U.S.-led alliance. He called for the opening of the front against the Zionist state. "We will destroy the Zionist state and thus weaken the U.S. and its allies," the sheikh shouted.

Usamah, son of Algeria's ISF leader, 'Abbas Madani, vowed that Allah willing a group of Algerian mujahidin will soon go to Iraq to participate in the battles.

Hizb al-Tahrir, founded in 1952 by a Palestinian Taqi al-Din al-Nabhani, calls for the creation of one single state under the Islamic caliphate. The party is banned in most Arab states.

The conference called on the Muslim world to withdraw from the United Nations and all its organizations and reject all its resolutions linked with the problems of Kuwait and Palestine. Participants had come to the conference from all parts of Jordan. Speaking to IRNA, one elderly participant praised Iran's stance but called for more active participation of Iran against the U.S.

Several other Muslim activists expressed similar sentiments to the IRNA correspondent.

Unconditional Withdrawal 'Tantamount To Surrender'

JN1802092091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Iraq Won't Surrender"]

[Text] The kind of unconditional and complete withdrawal that the allied countries are demanding of Iraq is tantamount to surrender. Iraq has not surendered and has no intention of doing so. All that Baghdad has now proposed is to give U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 a chance for practical implementation by observing its spirit as well as its letter. True that resolution calls for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. But it is also true that its third operative paragraph calls for an immediate intensive negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait for the purpose of resolving their differences. If this operative paragraph is not a built-in condition for the full implementation of that resolution, one does not know what is. Additionally, any legal and political document as the one that found expression in Resolution 660 needs to be seen in proper perspective and with a sense of realism. One cannot for example have half a million Iraqi troops moved from Kuwait "immediately" in the strict sense of the word. Moving such a massive number of Iraqi soldiers out of Kuwait would necessarily require reasonable time and practical security arrangements. Otherwise Iraq would put its armed forces at the mercy of its enemies, numerous as they are and harbouring sinister motives and intentions as they do. The Iraqi ambassador to the U.N., 'Abd al- Amir al-Anbari, emphasised on Saturday in New York that the so-called Iraqi "conditions" associated with Baghdad's Friday stunning announcement that it accepts Resolution 660 are not actually "conditions" but rather "issues" that need to be discussed. This is the catch here. The government of Iraq is assuring the world especially the part of it that is willing to listen that there are really no conditions attached to Iraq's peace overture. Yet U.S. President George Bush and his inner circle of advisers who have developed a vested interest in pursuing the war option insist on feeling the thorns instead of smelling the flower. It is one thing for such officials to characterise Baghdad's acceptance of Resolution 660 as incomplete and quite another to label it as a "cruel hoax" and to add insult to injury by calling on the Iraqi people to topple their president and his government.

We hope there is still some sanity left in this world to enable Soviet leaders to build on Iraq's peace initiative, which they saw as a promising step in the peace campaign. If Moscow and Baghdad can establish a true momentum for peace there the warmongers would be stripped of any excuse to prosecute their lust for war and destruction. As things stand now, it appears as if the leaders of the Coalition Against Iraq (CAI) are hell bent on pressing with their war on the ground, regardless of what happens in Moscow. If this is indeed the case, there is only one thing left to be said: Iraq will defend itself and prove capable of repelling the aggression.

Columnist Rejects Attacks on Foreign Journalists

NC1902163691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Feb 91 p 16

["Horizons" column by Salih Qallab: "No to Attacks on Foreign Journalists"]

[Excerpts] No one can deny that the raging war in the Gulf region has reflected negatively on the Arab and Islamic communities in the United States and in the West in general. In Britain, for example, dozens have been arrested, including some writers and journalists who have spent long years there and who are known for their moderate opinions that reject violence and terrorism. In the United States, newspapers and other news media continue to carry hideous pictures of the fanatics' daily harrassment of Middle Eastern nationals in general and Arabs in particular. In France, the authorities in the land of "light and civilization" have closed newspapers on the pretext that they are pro-Iraqi. The sons of the Arab Maghreb states in France also suffer because of their stands on the Gulf war. In Germany, on which we have pinned some hopes, there is a great deal to talk about, especially since every Arab there has become a suspect until the opposite is proven.

Despite all this, there is no justification to reply to these actions in kind, because our true religion teaches us to be tolerant, to sympathize with the stranger even when his opinion clashes with ours, not to blame the innocent for the others' guilt, not to punish people for their race or color, and not to put ourselves in the state's place in accusing or punishing someone. Our example in this regard is the symbol of tolerance, the farsighted His Majesty King Husayn, who from the first day of the Gulf developments has stressed the need to respect our foreign guests, who live with us pursuant to their works and jobs, such as members of diplomatic missions and other international bodies. [passage omitted]

During the demonstrations staged by students of colleges and other institutes the day before yesterday, foreign journalists were beaten. The sight was abominable and harmful to all our values, customs, and traditions. Before this, a German student was exposed to a similar act. Those who carried out these acts, which our tolerant people in this country do not approve of, do not know that it was these foreign journalists who broke the siege that Israel attempted to impose on the heroic resistance during its invasion of Lebanon in 1982, who conveyed the heinous pictures of the Israeli repression against the valiant intifadah, and who have conveyed and are conveying the scenes of the massacres that are being carried out by U.S. and British bombs against civilians in steadfast Iraq.

Finally, we say that there are eyes that do not sleep in order to take care of security in this country. So, anyone who suspects any foreigner must convey this to the competent authorities and not put himself in the place of the state and the law. At any rate, we should be tolerant with the foreign journalists and media men, and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious. They are our window, and Iraq's, on world public opinion, and anyone who attempts to cause them harm deliberately seeks to close this important window.

Paper: War To Go On Until 'Criminals' Pay Price

NC2002131791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Our Sacred Right To Take Revenge"]

[Text] All the fake masks dropped from the faces only a few days after the United States and its allies started their war machine and began their barbaric aggression against Iraq and its people. What was called European independence appeared to be a humiliating subservience to the United States, and what was called French nationalism is certainly a humiliating tie with Washington. We refer only to Europe in general and France in particular, because the other allies are too weak and humiliated to enjoy any political or military weight.

The ugly French colonialism has seized the occasion of the aggression to settle its accounts with this nation after its total defeat in Algeria, during the tripartite aggression on Egypt, and in Lebanon. The same applies to Britain. Hence Washington, London, and Paris are competing to turn this war from an aggression against Iraq into an unprecedented large-scale terrorist military operation against Iraq—territory, people, and history—and against Iraq's children, mothers, elderly, places of worship, roads, bridges, air, and water. Therefore, Bush, Mitterrand, and Major and other politicians and military men in the three states felt happy over this destruction. This feeling reflects bloodthirsty behavior that makes all of them war criminals.

The satisfaction felt by the U.S. Government and the majority of the American people after the bombing of the al-'Amiriyah shelter and by the British Government and the majority of the British people after the bombing of al-Fallujah places us, as a nation and a human society, before an alliance of killers, who are content to kill children, burn their mothers, and destroy the economic infrastructure and thousands of religious, civilian, and historical sites of a Muslim Arab country. Until the French commit a similar massacre to feel such joy, their planes and those of the other states in the alliance will continue their terrorist operations out of their hatred of true Arabs and Muslims, because this terrorist war represents the racist Westerners' hatred and their desire to kill and dominate. It also reflects their insistence on humiliating us—homeland and nation.

We have always said that what is happening in the Gulf region is a battle in a long war that will not be restricted to Iraq or the region, and that these millions of Arabs and Muslims will know how to face up to their responsibilities for protecting their nationalism, religion, homeland, and honor, even if the war spreads to the heart of London, Paris, and Washington. No crime escapes punishment, and our right to avenge our children, mothers, and elderly cannot be canceled by any force and cannot be besieged by any arrogance. Our holy war has begun, and the difficult process of settling the scores, which we have long awaited, has also begun. The alliance of the enemies will not know where the mujahidin and those who reject destruction and humiliation will emerge from.

They wanted it to be a war among peoples, and it will continue until the war criminals in Washington, London, and Paris pay the price of their indifference to human life, values, and principles and also pay the price of their desire to turn the Arab homeland and the Islamic world into a slaughterhous in which they kill us in cold blood.

Al-Asad, King Husayn Confer on Gulf Situation

NC2202115991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad this morning received a phone call from Jordan's King Husayn. They discussed developments in the Gulf.

Al-Asad, Sudan's Al-Bashir Resume Talks 21 Feb

NC2102134591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] At 1030 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, resumed their talks in a meeting held at the Presidential Palace. The meeting was attended by the Sudanese delegation accompanying the Sudanese leader. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Muhammad al-Mahmid, Syrian ambassador in Khartoum also attended.

Further on Talks; Al-Bashir Departs

NC2102180491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Excerpt][passage omitted] President Hafiz al-Asad and Sudanese President General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir held a closed session.

Discussions concerned developments in the region, the situation in the Gulf, and the efforts to tackle it. The two sides stressed their desire to salvage what could be salvaged.

President al-Asad referred to the critical, complicated, and grave situation in the Gulf. He stressed Iraq's need to respond to the urgent Arab, Islamic, and international appeals to withdraw from Kuwait. His excellency said: Withdrawal is the A to Z of any action to salvage what can be salvaged, and it is in the interest of all, especially Iraq.

The president warned that Iraq's delay in declaring and implementing withdrawal would have negative consequences for Iraq and the Arabs and would be worse than what has taken place so far. The president added: From the first moment of the invasion of Kuwait, Syria has acted to prevent Kuwait, Iraq, and the Arabs from reaching this situation and has attempted, to no avail, to convince Iraqi officials that the occupation of Kuwait was wrong and futile and that continuing it would harm all the Arabs, primarily Iraq and Kuwait.

The president noted that Syria addressed a fraternal message to Iraq about what it believes to be correct and useful and had Iraqi officials responded to this message and still been subjected to aggression on their territories, then Iraq would have found Syria in the same trench with it.

The president then said that the pan-Arab position and real Arab solidarity are currently expressed in the call on Iraq to withdraw without delay and not to push forward to destruction.

Gen. al-Bashir left Damascus at 1430 today at the end of a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammd Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador to Sudan Muhammad al-Mahamid, and Sudanese Ambassador in Damascus 'Isam Abu-Judayri. [passage omitted]

Official: Foreign Ministry Studying Soviet Plan

NC2202114791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (SANA)—The political editor of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Syrian Foreign Ministry is studying with great interest the eight-point Soviet proposal on the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Shakkur said that the ministry is waiting for the Soviet Union to communicate to it the official text of the Soviet initiative in its final form.

Al-Shar' Explains Rejection of Iraqi Initiative

PM2102121691 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Faruq Al-Shar' Tells AL-ANBA': Syria Rejects Iraqi Initiative and Insists on Liberation of Kuwait"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has reaffirmed Syria's rejection of the Iraqi initiative, which it sees it as a move to hamper the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions calling for a complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and for the restoration of the legitimate authority under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his government.

In a statement to AL-ANBA' he said that Syria insists on the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its independence so that it can rejoin its sister Arab states and resume its role as before.

He added: No initiative must depart from the Arab League and UN Security Council resolutions. The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, and Syria have said their word and have very frankly rejected the initiative because it lacks seriousness, includes unacceptable and new conditions, and conflicts with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He expressed his confidence that Kuwait will be liberated and that right will triumph over wrong sooner or later.

Al-Ahmar on Efforts To End War, 'Save' Iraqis

NC2102194091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text) Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that the strength and cohesion of the domestic front under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad is Syria's principal strength in its pan-Arab role of confronting the Zionist enemy, regaining the occupied Arab territories and usurped Arab rights, and defending pan-Arab causes against all challenges and dangers facing the Arab nation.

In a press statement he made today after voting in the local government elections in his home town of al-Tall, near Damascus, comrade al-Ahmar said: Our people's united front is the basis of our victories in the past and will remain the basis for continuing the struggle to achieve the pan-Arab objectives of our nation.

He referred to the tragedy of our Arab people in Kuwait and Iraq caused by the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwait and its refusal to withdraw and to implement the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions. He said: This is what brought the Gulf to its current situation, sparked this continuing war that is causing heavy losses to the two countries' resources, caused destruction and material and human losses, squandered Arab resources, and struck at the heart of the causes of the Arab struggle. The Zionist enemy has benefited from all this.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that this catastrophe could have been avoided had the Iraqi regime withdrawn from Kuwait. He added that the main concern of Syria and its president has been and remains the salvation of Iraq and Kuwait, but the Iraqi regime's intransigence and irresponsible stance has compelled the entire world to oppose that regime, which has blocked every opportunity to spare it from the catastrophe, and which has undercut every sincere initiative, foremost of which was President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative.

Comrade al-Ahmar added: We will continue our efforts to save our people in Iraq and put an end to their sufferings, because halting this war is the urgent problem under the circumstances. The way to achieve this has been and remains the Iraqi forces' immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. This is the main path to a peaceful solution to the crisis according to Arab and international resolutions.

Comparison of Al-Asad, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Talk

NC2002134091

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1115 GMT on 20 February carries a report on the telephone conversation between President Hafiz al-Asad and Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 19 February. The 20 February version has been compared with the 19 February Damascus Domestic Service version published on page 42 of the 20 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and was found to be identical, except for the following variations:

Column one, only paragraph, from sentence one make read: ...'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Their discussion centered.... (deleting word "today");

Same paragraph, penultimate sentence make read: ...of the region. The president hoped that, through the contacts they are holding with Iran, the Iraqi leaders will respond to the Iranian advice aimed at helping Iraq to emerge from the current situation. The two presidents.... (adding sentence)

Iraqi Opposition Figure Urges Saddam's Overthrow

NC1602121991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA)—Shaykh Muhammad Husayn al-Tajir, official in charge of information in the Iraqi Islamic Action Organization [munazzammat al-'amal al-islami] in Damascus, has said that what is happening in Iraq is destruction, disaster, killing, and displacement committed against the helpless Iraqi people as a result of the arrogance, frivolity, and tyranny of the Baghdad ruler because he only thinks of his personal interests and evil whims and because he does not respond to the call of reason and conscience. In a statement to AL-THAWRAH published today, the official in charge of information described President Hafiz al-Asad's message to Saddam Husayn before the outbreak of the war in the Gulf as an honest expression and a noble feeling stemming from a responsibility toward the catastrophe that might be inflicted on Iraq's people, Army, and condition as an entity. This is what really happened.

Shaykh al-Tajir added that the negative response to this historic message is clear evidence of Saddam's arrogance, haughtiness, and tyranny with regard to all human values, ideals, and sublime Islamic teachings. That is how all arrogant people in this world behave.

Al-Tajir said that the secretariat of the joint action committee of the Iraqi opposition is visiting Arab and Islamic countries to ascertain their rejection of Saddam Husayn's occupation of Kuwait, the need to halt the war, to offer itself as a substitute for the Iraqi regime, and to declare that the group is the Iraqi people's legitimate representative and that the world should recognize the Iraqi opposition and support it with all means. This way it will be able to assume the required role in these crucial circumstances in Iraq's history.

Al-Tajir added that the missiles Saddam Husayn uses against Israel are a trick to deceive Arab and Islamic public opinion. He said that the past and present of someone who upholds the banner of war against Israel should be clean. He also wondered whether a war on Israel could be waged just by firing a few missiles, or through coordination among all Arab and Islamic countries so that the war against Israel can be a comprehensive war.

Concluding, al-Tajir said that Saddam Husayn's downfall is inevitable sooner or later. This will come through a comprehensive popular upheaval in Iraq in which the people and the Army will participate to pounce on the head of sedition in Baghdad and save Iraq from Saddam Husayn and his bloody regime. Afterward, a new Iraq will be established in which freedom is guaranteed to all segments of the Iraqi people, and in which a free and just system is established where all opposition factions will be represented.

AL-THAWRAH Warns Against Israeli Intentions

NC1902114991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 Feb (SANA)—In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says the Arab region has never been exposed to perils like those it has been exposed to since 2 August 1990, the day Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The paper adds: The destruction of Iraq's military and economic structure arouses bitterness, because we Arabs will lose much and because our enemies, who are occupying our Arab lands in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, and who have never stopped, not even for a single day, fighting our pan-Arab objectives and achievements, are making many gains.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The destruction which Saddam has wrought on the Arab nation and Iraq will not make the Arab nationalists and patriots forget, not even for a single minute, their principal enemy and their fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy, or that enemy's desires and expansionist objectives and intentions. The Arab's national objectives, at head of which is the liberation of land from Zionism, have not changed. Despite the ferocity and violence of the Gulf war and Saddam's foolishness, what is more important for us Arabs is to keep strong nerves and our eyes open to what Israel is doing, and to what it intends to do today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow.

Canadian Foreign Minister Sends Al-Shar' Message

NC1802161491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this morning Mark Vayran, aide to the Canadian assistant foreign minister, who conveyed to him a message from the Canadian foreign minister. The meeting was attended by Ghaslan 'Alluf, head of the America Desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Canadian ambassador to Damascus.

Discussion during the meeting focused on the recent developments in the Gulf war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the international situation in general.

More Iraqi Refugees Arrive in Al-Hasakah

NC2102221491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Al-Hasakah—A number of Iraqi brothers crossed the Iraqi-Syrian border this evening and joined other groups who have been arriving in this governorate since the war broke out. They were housed in al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah, and the local authorities provided them with all necessities.

Upon arriving at the camp, several of the new arrivals told the SANA correspondent of the repressive actions perpetrated by the ruling regime in Iraq against our people there. They denounced the ruling regime's inhuman practices and its disregard for the Iraqi people's suffering. They praised the welcome and hospitality shown to them in Syria, and expressed hope that the Iraqi people's painful suffering will end soon, so that Iraq and the Arab nation will be saved.

India

Parliament Discusses Gulf War, Caste Issue

BK2202092291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha has taken up for discussion an adjournment motion on the Gulf situation after a determined opposition stalled the first question hour of the current session. The motion, sponsored by the National Front, the left parties, and their allies, alleged that the government has failed to take timely decision to stop the refueling of the U.S. military aircraft in India and steps to end the Gulf war, undermining the national policies. Earlier, as soon as the house met, Professor Madhu Dandavate, Janata Dal, raised the issue and demanded suspension of the question hour. He was supported by members belonging to the left parties. Several BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Bahujan Samaj Party members, however, insisted that the alleged atrocities on scheduled castes in Uttar Pradesh last month should be taken up for discussion through an adjournment motion. The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, pleaded with the members to allow the question hour and, in the meantime, leaders of the political parties could meet in his chamber to take a decision on discussing either of the two issues. This did not satisfy the opposition members.

In a brief intervention, the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, agreed with the speaker's suggestion and said the government is prepared for a discussion on both the issues. He told the members that the center is awaiting information from the Uttar Pradesh government on the alleged atrocities on scheduled caste. The Congress-I maintained that the Gulf situation should be taken up through a wider debate and not remain confined to the opposition's adjournment motion. Describing the case of atrocities as a serious one, they wanted the prime minister intervene in the matter.

There was also a demand for the dismissal of the Mulayam Singh Yadav government [in Uttar Pradesh]. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, while insisting on suspension of the question hour, left it to the speaker to decide which issue should be taken up first. After listening to a cross section of views in the house, the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, called Mr. A.K. Ray, Marxist Coordination Committee, to move the adjournment motion on the Gulf war.

Moving the motion, Mr. A.K. Ray bitterly criticized the government's policy on the Gulf issue. He said since the Gulf crisis is badly affecting our economy, India should take a leading role in restoring peace in the region. He said the USA has committed a naked aggression on an Arab nation and is indulging in mass killings and destruction in Iraq and Kuwait in the name of liberating Kuwait.

A Congress-I member said that the government has abdicated its responsibility on such a serious issue. He, however, pointed out that the shift in our foreign policy was there almost a year ago when the V.P. Singh government allowed the use of the Indian air corridor by the U.S. planes. He said there is nothing wrong in allowing refueling facility to foreign planes during peace time, but such a facility cannot be given during the war time. The discussion will continue.

The Congress-I today demanded an apology from the government for its failure to handle the Gulf crisis. The party leader, Mr. Shiv Shankar, told the Rajya Sabha that the refueling facilities to the U.S. aircraft have raised a lot of doubts in minds of the people in the country and in the international community. He alleged that this has brought down the country's prestige. Mr. Shiv Shankar was participating in the discussion on the Gulf war and the situation arising out of it. He criticized the government for not condemning the reported statements made by the U.S. on the possible use of nuclear weapons in the war. He wanted to know why India did not vote for an open session of the UN Security Council on the 13th of this month.

Earlier, the Rajya Sabha suspended its first question hour to discuss the situation arising out of the Gulf war. As soon as the house assembled, the Janata Dal leader, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, raised the issue and the house unanimously agreed to suspend the scheduled business to debate the matter. Initiating the debate, Mr. Gurupadaswamy demanded a contingency plan of action to be immediately drawn up by consulting all opposition parties. He welcomed Iraq's response to the Soviet peace plan and demanded that the government should send a senior minister to Iraq as part of the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] peace mission. The debate is to continue.

Government To Send Medicine to Iraq 'Shortly'

BK2102160791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The deputy minister for external affairs, Mr. Digvijay Singh, will leave New Delhi tomorrow for Tehran to represent India in a NAM [Nonaligned Movement] peace mission to Baghdad. He will join the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Cuba, and Iran, the other members of the mission which will reach Baghdad on Sunday [24 February].

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India is dispatching medicines worth about 10 million rupees to Baghdad shortly in response to an urgent request from Iraq. He, however, said that there had been no request from Iraq for the dispatch of blood plasma. He said there is absolutely no truth in reports of Iraq refusing humanitarian aid from India.

The spokesman said all Indian nationals in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and other neighboring countries are safe.

Editorial Denounces Attacks on Iraqi Civilians

BK2102152091 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Feb 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Killing the Innocent"]

[Text] President Bush is dangerously close to providing that he believes in the dictum: all is fair in war. The insensitivity that is revealed in the latest tragedy in Baghdad where allied bombing left nearly one thousand children, women and men dead must not be allowed to go unanswered.

Washington's obligation to explain is all the greater because more than anyone else, the United States showed the greatest concern about Iraq's condemnable threat to use hostages as human shield. It was one again the US which declared its intention of trying the Iraqi leadership for war crimes. For one who rightly assumes a moral posture regarding a belligerent's conduct in war, it is impermissible to perpetrate what was done to the concrete air raid shelter in Baghdad's al-'Amariyah District. Western witnesses in the Iraqi capital have averred that the shelter was in a civilian quarter and there was no military target in the neighbourhood. In view of this, allied claims that only military targets have been attacked either speak poorly of the hi-tech equipment the US has deployed ostensibly to limit the scale of human casualties, or are indicative of the coalition's proclivity to lie even while destroying human lives.

The al-'Amariyah incident, which in its callous disregard to human values reminds one of Vietnam's My Lie, raises two major questions. The first is what Mr V. C.

Shukla has once again referred to at the Security Council, namely that the Council Should ponder whether the UN mandate on the use of force is being followed. The increasing concern voiced by an ever larger number of countries at widespread civilian casualties must merit close scrutiny. Apparently too many civilians are getting killed or maimed in Iraq and the UN cannot afford to hesitate to intervene. Also the condition of the civilian population in occupied Kuwait is dismal. They have been subjected both to the danger of allied military pounding and to the inhuman treatment at the hands of the occupation forces from Iraq. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has drawn the attention of the Security Council to these maters and has declared that a joint WHO/UNICEF team would leave for the mission soon. This will be backed by sanctions, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Though a laudable move, it clearly is not enough. The UN must assume a more assertive role, if only to live up to Mr Perez de Cuellar's words that this is not UN's war against Iraq. Meanwhile, inching towards a military triumph, Mr Bush should ponder whether he wishes to end up as a friendless Rambo.

Commentary Examines Shekar's Visit to Nepal

BK2002122291 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Kuldip Singh Arora commentary]

[Text] The three-day visit of Mr. Chandra Shekhar from February 13 to Nepal was an attempt to reinforce the traditional friendship and cordiality in India-Nepal relations. In fact, India has done its best to help Nepal in building the physical and institutional infrastructure there. Nepal, that has just come out of its struggle for democracy, needs accelerating economic development. This fact has been accepted by the Indian counterpart as is clear from the trade regime offered to Nepal.

The cordial welcome accorded to Sri Chandra Shekhar throughout his tour of the landlocked country shows the popularity and goodwill that the Indian prime minister enjoys. Two things important in Mr. Chandra Shekhar's tour have been: 1) that India has no intention to show favors to any individual or party in the forthcoming May elections in Nepal; 2) India is in no way interested in playing the role of an elder brother to Nepal. These two points were rubbed in a section of media in Nepal as well as in Pakistan and Bangladesh who can hardly stand India having cordial relations with her traditionally friendly country—Nepal. These misgivings were voiced particularly by the pillars of the earlier Panchayat regime and assorted left parties.

The trade terms offered to Nepal, particularly duty-free entry of Nepalese goods to the Indian market while Nepal allowed to retain protection for its own industries, is a step forward to show that India's interests in cooperation with Nepal are not limited to just in the fields beneficial to New Delhi, but extends also to Nepal's overall development, particularly in its economy. Sri Chandra Shekhar, who offered the new trade regime at a state banquet at Kathmandu had also made it clear that Nepal for its own part would have to make a conscious effort to progressively outgrow these protective (?ethos) and create new production capacities. India's help could go a long way in building Nepal's physical and institutional infrastructure for industrialization and in human resource development. For this, higher level of resource mobilization by Nepal would be required. Private investment will have a key role to play. It is for Indian investors and Nepalese entrepreneurs to devise ties in various possible fields.

For Nepal's economic development, its leadership will have to see in a correct perspective India's more advanced stage of development and the sheer size of the Indian economy. In doing so, Nepal would have to break loose from the shackles, the shibboleths of the past. Without this, we will be back on the same old treadmill of hesitation on the side of Nepal and of impatience on the side of India. Projects like the Koshi High Dam which were technologically and economically feasible and financially attractive could provide the assured flood protection for the people of the two countries besides substantial power generation and irrigation benefits. India has also agreed to buy extra generated power on a price to be agreed upon. In fact, the two countries have no choice but to cooperate and harness the common rivers for shared safety and shared benefits. India has a natural market for Nepal and a natural resource for essential commodities and even investment. It is also the route through which Nepal traded with the outside world. India for its part depends on Nepal for protecting its ecology for saving Gangetic plains from the flood caused by rivers originating in Nepal.

Sri Chandra Shekhar made another important contribution by tackling head-on the doubts raised about the understanding on security issues reached between the two countries when Mr. Bhattarai visited New Delhi last June. A commitment to respect each other's sensitivities in this area does not in any way limit Nepal's freedom to act and live with its perception of national interests. While pointing out the problem of the open border that India has with Nepal and which Nepal must keep in mind, Sri Chandra Shekhar made it clear that Nepal was free to obtain arms from anywhere if India could not meet its need. In fact, India has never stood on the way of Nepal in its desire to improve and consolidate relations with others, including China.

Shekhar Undecided on Budget; Parties Protest

BK1902160091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister says that he is yet to decide whether to go for a vote on account or a regular general budget for 1991-92. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was speaking to newsmen informally after addressing a media seminar in New Delhi today.

The leader of the Janata Dal in the Lok Sabha, Professor Madhu Dandavate, has asked the government not to tamper with the normal budgetary process for political ends. In a statement in New Delhi, he said the reported move to seek a vote on account may be a political expediency, but will lead to pruning of the annual plan and curbing resources for development. CPI [Communist Party of India] and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] have also criticized the reported move of the government to seek vote on account in parliament session beginning on Thursday [21 February].

Agenda for Budget Session Noted

BK2002162491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] The budget session of parliament beginning tomorrow is likely to be short one with the ruling Janata Dal-S [JD-S] and its allies deciding that the government should only seek a vote on account and not present the regular budget. A railway budget is also unlikely. The session will continue only till the middle of next month. The National Front and the Left Parties have decided to boycott the president's address to the joint sitting of the two houses in protest against the dismissal of the Tamil Nadu government. They also decided not to attend the proceedings in both the houses on the opening day. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is boycotting the president's address protesting against the government's move to present a vote on account instead of a full budget.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that speculations about floor management problems for the ruling party during the session have been set at rest to a great degree with the Congress-I Working Committee assuring yesterday that it will not let the Chandra Shekhar government fall on account of a vote in the Lok Sabha.

The government is expected to seek approval of parliament on president's rule in Tamil Nadu. It is also likely to seek extension of center's rule in Jammu and Kashmir beyond the second of March. The budgets of all the states now under president's rule will be presented during the session. Among the new legislations slated to be introduced is a bill seeking to provide statutory reservation facilities for scheduled castes and tribes in government services. Most of the opposition parties have agreed to have effective floor coordination and raise common issues. These include the refueling issue, the IMF loan, the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] report on telephone tapping, and the issue of disqualification of five ministers. Other important items likely to engage the attention of parliament are the price rise, the communal situation, problems in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam, investigation in Bofors pay-off case, and the recent killing of some people belonging to scheduled castes in Uttar Pradesh.

Disclosing the parliamentary party decision not to go for regular budget, the JD-S spokesman, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, said this is being done in view of the forthcoming Tamil Nadu elections and also the Gulf crisis, and the general economic situation of the country. The JD-S parliamentary party met in New Delhi this evening under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

Mr. Malaviya said that the full annual budget will be presented some time around May when a next session is convened. He said that all supporting parties of the government expressed similar views at their meeting on Monday [18 February]. The cabinet committee on parliamentary affairs is expected to give its formal clearance to the matter this evening.

Replying to queries, Mr. Malaviya said that the issue of the disqualified ministers and the question of cabinet expansion were not raised at the party meeting. These are the prerogatives of the prime minister, Mr. Malaviya added. He said there was no talk about any threat to the Chandra Shekhar government or the possibility of a national government.

Taking part in the discussion, Mr. Chand Ram and some other MP's [members of parliament] emphatically denied that there was any dissidence in the party. They urged the government to take steps to control prices and streamline the distribution of diesel.

Explaining the government's position on the refueling and other issues, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said India's stand has been vindicated by the fact that New Delhi has been asked by Iraq to take care of its interests in Egypt and Turkey.

Mr. Malaviya appealed to the National Front and its Left allies not to boycott the president's address to parliament.

The Janata Dal has demanded that the government should present a full-fledged budget in parliament. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the government's move to present a vote on account will have catastrophic consequences for the nation's economy. He alleged that the Congress-I is holding the country's economy to ransom through its demand for a vote on account.

The Congress-I today denied that it had brought any pressure on the government to go for a vote on account instead of a regular budget. A party spokesman disclosed this after the executive committee of the Congress parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi.

Assam 'Militants' Kill Congress-I Leader

BK2202075691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The Assam Pradesh [state] Congress-I general secretary and INTUC [Indian National Trade Union Congress] president, Mr. Manavendra Sharma, was shot dead by suspected ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants in Guwahati this morning.

According to police, two people on a motorcycle shot Mr. Sharma from close range while he was returning from the market. Mr. Sharma died on the spot. Senior officials from police and civil administration rushed to the spot and investigations are on.

The Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikya, has condemned the brutal killing.

Iran

Velayati Interviewed on Europe Visit, Peace Plan

LD2102182591 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent at Mehrabad International Airport on 21 February—recorded]

[Excerpts][correspondent] Mr. Velayati, please tell us about your recent trips to Germany and France.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] We discussed two topics with the German authorities. One was the Persian Gulf crisis, and the other concerned ties between Iran and Germany. Regarding the Persian Gulf crisis, the views of the German Government are very similar to Iran's. They believe in a peaceful solution; at the same time, they believe Kuwait must be evacuated by the Iraqi forces as soon as possible and Kuwait's independence should be restored. Regarding regional security, as in Iran, they believe that the security of the Persian Gulf region concerns the countries in the region, and nothing should be imposed on the region by the outside world. All the German officials, even leaders of various political parties, were unanimous in that view. [passage omitted]

My trip to France was shorter. It had not been previously planned, but the regional crisis necessitated the trip. France holds views about the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East and has taken certain steps in the past few months. The ties between Iran and France have improved in the past few months. We have arranged with the French Government, the president, and the foreign minister, to hold talks on various issues. Considering the fact that we are nearing the climax of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf, it was necessary for us to discuss certain matters with the French authorities. [passage omitted]

The French definitely prefer a peaceful end to the crisis. What both sides agreed on was that Iran and France should continue discussing the future of this sensitive region. Some French political officials believe—informed political sources and media raised this point during the visit—that tripartite consultations should take place between Iran, the USSR, and France to end the crisis and establish proper peace and security in this sensitive region. We heard that from various sources in France.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Considering the fact that the deadline set for Iraq by the allies is approaching, how do you evaluate the war situation? What results do you see from Mr. Tariq 'Aziz's trip to Moscow?

[Velayati] We hope Iraq will meet the latest deadline, heed the global call, and give a positive response to our president's proposal calling for a speedy, complete, and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. We strongly believe that if the ground war starts, it will be far more difficult to stop than the present stage. A few moments ago Mr. Tariq 'Aziz arrived at the airport. I must go to welcome him. Within the next hour he will fly to Moscow. We hope to receive news from him in connection with the developments.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] You are welcome.

Meets With 'Aziz on Soviet Proposal

LD2102193791 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Excerpt][passage omitted] Immediately after his arrival in Tehran, Mr. Velayati held a meeting with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, the foreign minister of Iraq, who made a brief stop in Tehran en route to Moscow.

Our correspondent reports that during the meeting, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz outlined Iraq's general views in terms of the Soviet peace plan and informed Mr. Velayati of Iraq's views on the latest developments in the region and the acceptance of Security Council Resolution 660.

Mr. Velayati briefed Mr. 'Aziz on the outcome of his talks with high-ranking French and German officials.

Information Minister Predicts Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2102180491 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Arak, Feb. 21, IRNA—Information Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan Thursday predicted that Iraq would most probably withdraw its troops from Kuwait in response to a Soviet peace initiative.

"Despite Iraq's evident readiness to withdraw from Kuwait the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf war seem to be seeking goals other than the liberation of Kuwait," the minister told an administrative council meeting here.

"With this war, the U.S. is seeking to dominate the oil deposits of the region, monopolize world politics and eventually replace Islmic values prevailing in the region with Western culture," Fallahiyan said.

Fallahiyan, a member of the Supreme National Security Council, made it clear that "the Islamic Republic, however, will keep its neutral stance from military point of view for ever. We will continue our efforts to find a principled way to end the devastating war."

From humanitarian point of view, the minister said, the Islamic Republic feels dutybound to send medical aid to the innocent people of Iraq.

"The ongoing war in the region does not really mean the war of Islam with blasphemy since Saddam by having occupied Kuwait took the wrong way on the one hand and the Americans embarked on military build-up in the Persian Gulf to materialize its arrogant goals on the other," he said.

"If the U.S. refuses to settle the war politically it would enter a difficult phase and many countries such as the Soviet Union would possibly change their positions."

UN Envoy Calls Soviet Peace Plan 'Positive'

LD2202112491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Organization, called Moscow's plan—for a peaceful solution of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf—positive, and said: The plan is strong because it accepts the unconditional and full withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. It is almost exactly what the Islamic Republic of Iran expected.

Speaking to reporters at the UN Secretariat last night on the likelihood of a ground attack by the allied forces, he said: Once Iraq accepts such a plan, the allies can no longer justify a ground attack.

On the reaction of the United States and its allies to the Soviet plan, the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic to the United Nations, said: They may have some difficulties with the plan, but they cannot reject it.

On the response of the Security Council to today's agreement between Iraq and Moscow, he said: That issue depends on the members of the council and the session that is to convene today.

Italy's Andreotti Sends Message to President

LD2102170491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] A written message from Italian Prime Minister Mr. Giulio Andreotti to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was handed to Mr. Va'ezi, European and American affairs under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, by the Italian ambassador in Tehran today.

In the message the Italian prime minister thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to end the war. Referring to the common stands of Iran and Italy regarding the Persian Gulf crisis, he stated that the Italian Government will make every effort necessary to find a peaceful solution to end the crisis and prevent further bloodshed.

Referring to the necessity of continuing contacts between the Iranian and Italian authorities, especially considering the closeness of their viewpoints, Mr. Va'ezi stressed the importance of reaching a peaceful solution. After recounting Iran's diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution and prevent a ground war between the coalition and the Iraqi forces, which could result in heavy losses and casualties, he said: An unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait would prevent further bloodshed and the continuation of the crisis.

He said that the departure of foreign forces from the region would be a serious step toward stability and security in the region and a suitable opportunity to end the war and attain a comprehensive peace.

Emami-Kashani Urges Coalition To Leave Gulf

LD2202125291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Today our devoted and monotheist compatriots, as on previous Fridays, attended Friday prayers throughout the country and performed the immortal Muhammadan rites.

Tehran University and its adjacent streets, despite a snowfall, were filled with the massive presence of the hezbollah ummah who gathered to perform the Friday prayers led by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani.

The interim Friday prayer imam of Tehran congratulated Muslims and those performing prayers on the anniversary of the birthday of Imam Husayn, Imam Sajjad, and His Holiness 'Abulfazl al-'Abbas, peace be upon them. Expressing his pleasure with the opening of the second term of the Assembly of Experts, he said: The Assembly of Experts represents one of the lofty values of the Islamic Republic's system that gives confidence to the Islamic ummah for the future of its society.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani then referred to the Iraqi acceptance of the Soviet peace plan, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran made continuous efforts to end the Persian Gulf war, adopting a neutral position. Fortunately, the efforts of the officials, particularly those of our president, to end the conflict came to fruition. With the Iraqi acceptance of the peace plan, the possibility of peace returning to the region has increased.

Strongly criticizing the U.S. and multinational forces' obstinacy in continuing the war and killing Iraqi civilians, he said: Now that Iraq has accepted the peace plan, they should not continue their crimes. Obviously, America has no answer to give to the American nation and other nations for these beastly action. He stressed: What causes concern for the people of the region is that the United States and its allies remain in the region. Therefore, with an end to the conflict, the U.S.-led multinational forces should leave the sensitive Persian Gulf region as soon as possible.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani then expressed his regret about the demise of Ayatollah Seyyed Jussef Hakim and honored the memory of martyr Mahallati and others who were martyred during the imposed war [between Iran and Iraq] on the anniversary of their martyrdom.

'Undeclared' U.S. Postwar Objectives Denounced

NC2102200091 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The international arena is witnessing large-scale diplomatic moves, endeavors, and efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union to prevent a ground war in the Persian Gulf region and find a political solution for this escalating crisis in this very sensitive part of the world.

Despite Iraq's declaration on 15 February on its willingness to withdraw from Kuwait and despite the Soviet Union's peace plan for resolving this crisis and preventing a large-scale ground war, the United States is insisting on continuing the war. All in all, the U.S. reaction to the Soviet peace plan was not positive at all. This reaction supports the view that the U.S. objective is not limited to what is termed the liberation of Kuwait or to the implementation the Security Council resolutions on the occupation of Kuwait. Statements by U.S. officials and senior commanders and the moves of the multinational forces under U.S. leadership give the impression that the United States wants to continue the war and launch a large-scale ground war on Iraq. This comes at a time when many world leaders and presidents are stressing that peace is still possible and that efforts must continue because a ground war will greatly complicate this crisis and will make halting the war extremely difficult.

In this respect, [Foreign Minister] Dr. Velayati has said that launching a ground attack is unacceptable if Iraq is serious about accepting Resolution 660 on the unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and that in light of the situation, the United States and its allies must give a political solution a chance.

It can be said that the gravity of recent developments and the fearful possibilities that might result from expanding the theater of war necessitates greater efforts to find a peaceful solution for the crisis. It is only natural to say that the opportunities for finding such solutions will increase if the fighting does not escalate. Some parties believe that the U.S. position, which shows little concern about the peace efforts, stems in fact from the nature of long-term U.S. objectives in this region. These objectives include the destruction of the Islamic countries' economic capabilities and the imposition of U.S. hegemony. The United States is insinuating that the peace efforts have failed and that there are no more opportunities for the peace plans. It is clear that this means they are preparing to launch a large-scale ground war in order to achieve the undeclared U.S. objectives resulting from such a destructive and premeditated war.

Commentary Examines U.S. Motives in Gulf Region

LD2102213591 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Obviously, nonescalation of the war will give (?another) chance to efforts aimed at finding a peaceful settlement and, in order that peace efforts may succeed, self-restraint and sense of responsibility should be demonstrated by the warring sides.

In the opinion of observers, cold and indifferent U.S. attitudes toward peace overtures may stem from Washington's long-term objectives in the region such as annihilation of the Muslim states' economic resources and its continued presence in the area. That is why Washington is taking pains to (?suspect) that peace process and diplomatic efforts to this end have failed, with their being no room for attending the peace-oriented [word indistinct].

Such an issue leads one to conclude that America will prepare ground for escalating the war and launching a ground offensive and continues with this devastating war until attaining its desired objectives.

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD2102212591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Yang Fuchang, Chinese deputy foreign minister and special presidential envoy, arrived in Tehran on Thursday evening to deliver a message from the Chinese president to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He was welcomed by Mr. Borujerdi, the Asia and Oceania undersecretary of our country's Foreign Ministry.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent on his arrival in Tehran, the Chinese deputy foreign minister said: Iran and China have very friendly relations and take common positions regarding the Persian Gulf crisis. We deeply admire Iran's efforts to resolve the crisis.

About the outcome of the talks between Iraqi Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi and the Chinese authorities, Yang Fuchang said: During Mr. Hammadi's visit a report was submitted on the decision of Iraq's Revolution Command Council to evacuate Kuwait. In our view that is the first positive step toward a political solution to the war in the Persian Gulf. We hope the warring sides will open the way to peace through such positive tendencies.

On China's position regarding the Soviet president's peace plan, he said : We support all efforts to prevent the spread of the war.

Delivers Message to President

LD2202130691 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22 IRNA—Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang arrived here last night with a verbal message for president 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his Chinese counterpart, and was received by Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

At the airport, Yang appreciated Iranian efforts to end the U.S.-led war against Iraq, and said the "the two friendly countries of Iran and China share identical views on the Persian Gulf war."

He also referred to the outcome of Iraqi Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi's recent visit to Beijing, and said China views as "a step towards peace" the declaration of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council to withdraw forces from Kuwait.

"It is the first step towards a solution, and we hope that the parties to the conflict would respond positively and open the way towards peace," added Yang.

The Chinese official also expressed support for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's peace plan to solve the Persian Gulf crisis.

Pakistan

High-Level Iranian Delegation To Arrive 23 Feb

BK2202155191 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] A high-level Iranian delegation led by Hojjat-ol Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Iranian parliament, is to arrive in Islamabad on a four-day official to Pakistan tomorrow. The Iranian delegation has been invited to visit Pakistan by National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan. The 56-member delegation will include ministers and deputy ministers. It is the first time such a large delegation from the brotherly country of Iran will be visiting Pakistan and will open a new chapter of friendship at the parliamentary level. According to the program, the Iranian speaker will address the National Assembly on Sunday [24 February] afternoon. The delegation members will meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and will hold talks with National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan.

A diplomat of the Iranian Embassy has said that the Iranian delegation will exchange views on a number of issues to promote bilateral ties during its meeting with Pakistani leaders. The delegation will visit Lahore and Karachi as well.

Minister Returns From West Africa Gulf Mission

BK2202091291 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The federal minister for labor, Mr. Ejazul Haq, has said that four West African countries have fully appreciated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's peace initiative and Pakistan's efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today after his visit as the prime minister's special envoy to Niger, Senegal, Zambia, and Guinea. He delivered the prime minister's message to the heads of these countries outlining the six-point formula for a solution to the crisis. The federal minister said these countries shared Pakistan's concern over hostilities in the Gulf resulting in great losses to the Muslim world.

PAEC Chairman Khan Defends Nuclear Policy

BK2102143991 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 91 p 10

[Text] Lahore, Feb. 20—The Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, has said that Pakistan was in favour of maintaining a nuclear free zone in south Asia but would not sign a Non-Proliferation Treaty as long as India did not sign it.

Delivering a lecture on "Pakistan's nuclear programme" arranged by the Pakistan Institute of National Affairs and presided over by Punjab governor here today, the PEAC Chairman said that any non-proliferation policy against Pakistan would not be accepted. He said that Pakistan would not compromise on its nuclear programme for the sake of foreign aid.

Referring to suspension of US aid to Pakistan, Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan said President Bush had certified in October 1989 that Pakistan was acquiring nuclear capability for peaceful purposes only. He said that he was surprised over non-certification by the US President on the issue in 1990 in spite of the fact that no changes had taken place in our peaceful nuclear programme.

He said that USA and various European countries had been creating obstacles in our nuclear programme. Dr. Henry Kissinger, he said, had in 1976 urged the then Government in Pakistan to refrain from acquiring nuclear capability.

Giving an assessment of Pakistan's current nuclear status, he said that the country had the largest research and development facilities in the nuclear field in the entire Muslim world and happened to be the second largest in the whole Third World. Recalling the background of Pakistan's nuclear programme, Mr. Munir Ahmed said that a comprehensive plan was approved in 1972 which is being pursued ever since. He said India's nuclear explosion in 1974 caused a great set-back for the peaceful application of nuclear energy throughout the world.

He said Pakistan was made a target of discriminatory attitude and a number of treaties and contracts with Pakistan even under international safeguards were cancelled.

Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan cautioned that while dealing with the nuclear issue utmost restraint and care should be exercised so as not to provide ammunition to our critics abroad to attack and undermine our nuclear programme.

Presiding over the function, Punjab Governor Mian Muhammad Azhar said our scientists and engineers were working hard to give the country a bright future despite many constraints. The Governor hoped that our nuclear programme would also help us safeguard our frontiers.

President Names New Air Force Chief of Staff

BK1702154591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 91

[Text] The president has appointed Air Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan as Air Staff chief starting 9 March. The present Air Staff chief, Marshal Hakimullah, retires on 9 March after completing his tenure of three years.

Air Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan is currently the chairman and managing director of Pakistan International Airlines.